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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the center of our joy, bless our Senators in their going out and coming in. Guard them from mistakes and deliver them from evil. Today, strengthen them to walk in the light of Your countenance.

Lord, abide with them so that Your wisdom will influence each decision they make. May the words of their mouths and the meditations of their hearts be acceptable to You.

Lord, purge our lawmakers of self and fill them with Your poise and peace.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

INVESTING IN A NEW VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION IN AMERICA ACT—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3684, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to H.R. 3684, a bill to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING CARL LEVIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this has been a week. I spoke earlier about the loss of my good friend Senator Mike Enzi, as many other Senators have, out of respect, from both sides of the aisle.

Yesterday, another good friend, Senator Carl Levin, left us. And, again, there will be respect shown, I am sure, by both Republicans and Democrats because he was of the school that worked with both.

I had the privilege of being here throughout his decades of service, and he epitomized what the Senate should be. He was a person of complete integrity; a person who knew the issues, whatever they were, that he was going to be discussing and working on. He

knew them as well as anybody else. But everybody knew, Republican or Democrat, that they could take his word for anything.

And I couldn't help but think last night, if more Senators had listened to him at the time of the major Iraq war, supposedly because Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, which of course he did not; when we had been told by many in the administration they had evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, when they did not; and because he actually took the time to read the intelligence—he was one of three Senators, another one being the vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee, a conservative Democrat from Florida—they would come to us and tell us specifically what parts of the intelligence we should read, as did a third Senator.

Those who actually took the time to read it, as, of course, Senator Levin did, voted against the war. They knew there were no weapons of mass destruction. They knew that this would ultimately put America at risk. And, unfortunately, by having to transfer forces from Afghanistan that were closing in on the Saudi Arabian Osama bin Laden and his followers, the people who had organized 9/11 and the strike against us, he was able to escape and stayed loose for years, until captured during the Obama administration.

But Carl Levin I remember saying: Please, do your due diligence.

He and Vice Chairman Bob Graham and a third Senator kept saying: Read the intelligence.

Those who did voted no.

But I could give hundreds of other times when we would gather around Carl Levin, Republicans and Democrats alike, and say: What do you think of this issue? What did you study?

And we would get it, chapter and verse. It was always accurate.

He was what I considered a Senator's Senator. He was the type of Senator I hoped to be able to serve with when I first came to the U.S. Senate.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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I remember sitting in the Gallery up there as a young law student at Georgetown Law School. Between classes or exams, I would come here just to watch the U.S. Senate, and I would see so many giants in both parties speaking, and I thought how wonderful it would be to serve in such a body. When Carl Levin was here, that was the example—his brother in the House of Representatives; he in the Senate.

And I remember Carl, with his sense of humor, speaking of his mother, whom I also got to meet, when she was asked by the press: What do you think about one son in the U.S. House of Representatives and the other in the U.S. Senate? Does that make you proud?

And she said: Well, if it is what makes them happy, I think that is good.

And Carl would just say that with his own self-deprecating sense of humor.

I hope Senators will look at his life and realize, whichever party you belonged to, this is a person you could follow. When he did lead the Armed Services Committee, he listened to everybody in this body, from the right to the left, and studiously considered their concerns.

I would not interrupt the Senate here, but I mentioned him because this is what a Senator should be, as I said earlier with Senator Mike Enzi. Losing two people I admired, two close friends, two people who worked to make the Senate better—let us all pause and try and do the same.

I appreciate Senators coming together yesterday in the legislation that Senator SHELBY and I put forward to help our Afghan translators who worked with us, to bring them to safety, and to help our Capitol Police and those who work around the Capitol to be able to recover from January 6. And it gave me hope that they came together by a 98-to-0 vote and passed that legislation.

Let's take a break, and let's think of Carl Levin. Let's try and do more of that.

I think of my days as a young student looking down on this body, and I look at it now as the dean of the Senate. I have seen the good and the bad. I prefer the good.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, for the second time this week, sadly, the Senate has lost a greatly admired former colleague. Last night, Carl Levin—Michigan's longest-serving Sen-

ator, a Harvard-educated civil rights attorney, and former taxidriver—passed away after a battle with cancer.

Over the years, many have been called model Senators, but few have earned the title like Carl. He was no frills, hyperfocused on policy and results, and fearless in taking on entrenched powers.

When the Pentagon was profligate, you could be sure that Carl Levin was there. When large financial institutions fleeced consumers, you could be sure Carl Levin was there. And whenever and wherever the interests of assembly line employees, the shift workers, or the servicemembers were at stake, you could be sure Carl Levin was there.

He was Mr. Integrity. Like a true son of the "Motor City," he punched the clock at an auto assembly plant as a young man. Decades later, he proudly carried his 1953 union membership card in his wallet, a silent reminder of where he came from and who he fought for.

He was certainly not a Senator out of central casting. As the tributes came pouring in from all corners of the country, the word most often you would see associated with Carl is "disheveled"—the rumpled suit, the stark-white hair, the glasses perched precariously at the end of his nose.

Well, he may have been disheveled in his appearance, but there was nothing—nothing—disheveled about his mind and principles.

It reminds me of one story. In 2006—I try to teach some of my caucus members some certain Yiddish words, and one of them is "schlumpy." It means disheveled, not dressed to the best.

So when Harry Reid heard that BERNIE SANDERS was coming to the Senate, he got up at our caucus lunch one day, and he said: Well, we will finally find somebody here in the caucus more schlumpy than SCHUMER: BERNIE SANDERS.

Carl Levin said: I object to that; I am the most schlumpy.

He had a great sense of humor. He was a fine man. His intellect was fierce, a sharpened blade designed to cut to the core of an issue, or sometimes cut through the unimpressive answers of a witness in front of his committee. To modify a well-known expression, one of the most dangerous places in Washington was the witness chair across from Chairman Levin.

And while he was not a veteran himself, the Armed Forces of the United States could not count on a better friend than Carl Levin. For more than three decades, the not-so-invisible hand of Senator Levin shaped America's defense policy. There were large and weighty issues: matters of war and peace, terrorism and national security, billion-dollar budget decisions.

But there was also the Michigan Korean war veteran, denied a veterans' loan because his military records were destroyed in a fire. It would have been enough for Carl to set his office to the

task, find the lost records, and ship them off in a manila envelope. Instead, Carl went to visit with him in person and deliver four service medals.

He was an example that inspired and one to aspire to. Because of who he was and what he accomplished, the Senate, the State of Michigan, these entire United States, and our globe, our world, are much better off thanks to Mr. Carl Levin.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. President, on another matter entirely, later today, we will vote on the nomination of Ur Mendoza Jaddou, of California, to be Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. This is a Department in desperate need of capable leadership after four chaotic years under the Trump administration.

The daughter of Mexican and Iraqi immigrants, Ms. Jaddou would be the first woman to ever lead the USCIS, and I am confident she has the skills, expertise, and experience to do the job well.

In a short time, the Senate will also take a procedural vote to move forward with a bipartisan infrastructure bill. I expect the vote will receive the same significant margin of support today as it did on Wednesday.

Once Senators agree to proceed to debate on the bill, it is my intention to offer the text of the bipartisan agreement as a substitute amendment, making it the base of the bill on the floor.

The Senate remains on track to reach our goal of passing both a bipartisan infrastructure bill and a budget resolution, with reconciliation instructions, before the start of the August recess. It is an ambitious deadline, absolutely, but the hard work put in by Senators and staff means that we are on the right track to get it done.

Given the bipartisan nature of the bill, the Senate should be able to process this legislation rather quickly. We may need the weekend. We may vote on several amendments. But with the cooperation of our Republican colleagues, I believe we can finish the bipartisan infrastructure bill in a matter of days.

While our job is not nearly complete, I do want to take a moment this morning to recognize the sweat that our Members and staff have already put in. Senators from the bipartisan group have worked long hours for many weeks to first reach, and then finalize, this agreement.

I want to thank Senators SINEMA and PORTMAN for taking the lead, to the entire G-22 group—as it is called—as well as the White House for helping pull all of this together.

There has been significant work behind the scenes. In order to prepare the legislative text, staff members from our committees, the group of bipartisan Senators, and the legislative counsel have worked not just long hours but endured sleepless nights to finish writing the bill.

And the work I am talking about—a massive down payment toward rebuilding our Nation's infrastructure—will

benefit our economy for years and decades to come.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that upon the disposition of the Jaddou nomination, the Senate remain in executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority whip is recognized.

REMEMBERING CARL LEVIN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this has been a sad week in the U.S. Senate.

First, we lost Senator Mike Enzi of Wyoming and last night brought news of the passing of Senator Carl Levin of Michigan.

Carl was an extraordinary Senator and an extraordinary person. I remember after I had been in the Senate a few years, my friends back home said: Well, who are the real stars of the U.S. Senate?

There were many who were as obvious as could be, Ted Kennedy, for example. I said: There are two you probably don't know much about that I would turn to time and again if I had to make an important decision, either policy or politics, that I know I would get a thoughtful, intelligent response. One was PAUL SARBANES of Maryland, and the other was Carl Levin of Michigan. Those two, more than many of the colleagues I served with, really represented the best of the U.S. Senate.

Carl Levin was brilliant, nothing short of brilliant, and he was my friend. Many times we sat together and talked. I reflected on the way he approached legislation. Many of us think about the big-picture items and leave the details to staff—not Carl. Somebody would bring an amendment to the floor. Carl would say: I would like to get a copy of that. That, in itself, is unusual. We usually trust our staff to look at copies of amendments.

Then he would say, as he read the amendment: Can I take this home tonight and read it and tell you what I think about it in the morning? You knew that wasn't a pose; that was a fact. Carl took his job that seriously.

He served in the Senate, representing his beloved State of Michigan, for 36 years. When he retired in 2014, he left a legacy in the Senate, certainly, of important and good legislation but, more importantly, of the image of a real Senator. He left a powerful example of what we can achieve in life and in politics when we choose integrity over ideology and common good over con-

frontation. His keen intellect, his honesty and fairmindedness, decency and unfailing civility earned him the respect of Senators on both sides of the aisle.

The list of laws that he can claim to have authored is long and historic.

If you knew his background, you understood where this man came from and what made him what he was in the Senate.

First and foremost, he was a son of Detroit, MI. He showed up in Washington in 1979. He was driving a 1974 American-made Dodge Dart with a hole in the floorboard. He was still driving that car 10 years later. That is how devoted he was to the U.S. auto industry, its workers, and unions.

He wasn't flashy. I don't think he owned a shirt of any other color than white. And when we would go on the informal weekends with our families, he would be wearing a white shirt, which he rolled the cuffs up on to merely let his hair down and be informal. He was just that humble a man.

But when General Motors and Chrysler faced potential collapse in 2008, he knew what he had to do. He pressed Congress and the new President to support those companies with billions of dollars in loans, and thank God he did. He saved jobs and saved companies that are still major players in the industry. By the time he retired 6 years later, the loans to those companies had been paid off, and the companies were earning record profits.

His work on the Armed Services Committee is known to all. For 36 years, he served on that committee. He was the champion of America's military and military families and veterans and one of Congress's most respected voices on national security and the military issues. He voted for the repeal of don't ask, don't tell when it was far from a popular thing to do anywhere, and he voted against the war in Iraq. I felt honored to be joining him in that vote. He and I were 2 of only 23 Senators who voted no on that, sadly, misguided war, and I will tell you for sure, before I made a final decision, I sat down in that seat right—I can see it from here, right next to Carl Levin—and we talked about what it meant. It was amazing. I was making that decision before an election, just a few weeks, but he was making that decision as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. It was a brave vote, and history has shown that he was right.

A Jewish publication in Detroit once wrote that Carl Levin and his brother—my pal—former Congressman Sandy Levin, both deserved what they called “honorable menschen awards,” with the accent on “mensch,” for their historic service to America. I couldn't agree more.

Loretta and I extend our deepest condolences to Sandy and the entire Levin family, especially to Carl's beloved wife Barbara, their children and grandchildren.

And to their cousin Dan Levin, my pal in Chicago, IL, I know how proud the Levin family was of their name and reputation. It was well earned in whatever they chose to do—law, politics, business. Carl Levin was a great man and a good friend. I will truly miss him.

IMMIGRATION

Madam President, last night, we had an opportunity. We sat down with the President of the United States for more than an hour. We were discussing with him and with Vice President HARRIS our Nation's need for immigration reform.

The Presiding Officer was there, Senator MENENDEZ, Senator LUJÁN, SENATOR PADILLA, along with our colleagues in the House. We got to speak to the President in a very informal setting.

I want to thank President Biden for taking the time to meet with us. He could have taken the whole day on a victory lap in the Senate after passing the historic infrastructure plan or at least starting the debate on it 2 nights ago. But instead President Biden said: I want to meet with you. He gave us his undivided attention for more than an hour. That is because President Biden understands that we cannot wait any longer to fix America's broken immigration system.

It has been 35 years—35 years—since we passed any meaningful immigration bill. We passed it here. It was known at the time as the Simpson-Mazzoli bill, and it was sent to President Ronald Reagan, who signed it. Critics of what was signed called it amnesty, but it was a sincere and bipartisan effort to deal with a broken immigration system. We have since learned that the immigration system is broken again in many significant ways. This effort that we are discussing now has been decades in the making.

Back when we passed that original immigration reform under President Reagan, our adversary in the world was the Soviet Union. “Top Gun” was the most popular movie in America. Under the last administration, our broken immigration system absolutely collapsed. Former President Donald Trump's zero-tolerance policy at the southern border was not only inhumane, it was ineffective. It made our Nation weaker and less safe.

The hatred that many people in the Trump administration had for immigrants was palpable. I can go through the list of names, but I don't want to give them any satisfaction to hear their names on the floor of the Senate. But what they think of people who were not lucky enough to be born in America is just sad, in many ways, disgusting.

Some of my Republican colleagues have tried to blame President Biden, who has been in office for 6 months, with the failure of our immigration system, but the reality is Donald Trump was the one who provoked the crisis at our border.

Do you remember the speeches when he talked about all the rapists and murderers who were coming in, wanting to live in the United States? Do you remember what he did to our Muslim friends and their families when he cut off immigration from their countries?

His administration implemented policies that blocked nearly all claims by asylum seekers. They also prevented members of law enforcement from exercising prosecutorial discretion, which made it harder for ICE and DHS to apprehend true criminals. Former President Trump's hate-based policies created a massive bottleneck at our border and a giant backlog of cases that our courts are still working through.

President Biden understands that closing our doors to families and children fleeing violence is not only cruel and inhumane, it is not good policy. And it is contrary to the values of this country. The stories are legendary about when the United States closed its borders in World War II under a Democratic President, Franklin Roosevelt, turning away people who were escaping the Nazis in Europe, sending them back to their deaths in the Holocaust.

We learned a bitter lesson during that war that that is not what the United States is all about. And we have tried to make it up ever since, trying to lead the world when it came to refugees embraced in America. And those refugees have proven over and over again that they are positive influences on this Nation.

The Biden administration is bringing order to immigration enforcement, and it will take some time, but it is on its way. Since President Biden took office, roughly 7 in 10 individuals apprehended at our border have been denied entry into the country—7 out of 10. You wouldn't know that from the speeches given on the other side. Of course, there should be exceptions to the policy, humanitarian exceptions. Our Nation has a moral obligation, a moral responsibility, to provide refuge to families and unaccompanied children fleeing gang violence, natural disasters, paramilitary violence, and other crises.

This is at the heart of our values as a nation, and under President Biden's leadership, our Nation is no longer tearing babies away from mothers' arms.

I just read a story in the newspaper yesterday about efforts that are being made in Guatemala and other countries, going deep into the forests and jungles to try to find families whose children were taken away from them by the policies of the previous administration. The lengths we are going to, to try to reunite them, were totally unnecessary if they had just kept records of the families and children, but they tore these kids away from their mothers and had no plan at all to reunite them.

President Biden also recognizes that just fixing the mess of Donald Trump is

not enough. We need to provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers and others who make our economy better every day and who help over the years to add to its growth. The vast majority of Americans agree with this—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Tens of thousands of Dreamers have been saving American lives during this pandemic as nurses and doctors and first responders. Tens of thousands more help the economy grow every day as teachers, engineers, business owners, entrepreneurs, essential workers. They even have volunteered for our military. They respect our country so much, though so many in the Senate do not respect them.

The Dreamers need to be provided a path to citizenship as well as the farmworkers who are toiling in sweltering heat right now, right now at this moment, in this terrible heat that we are witnessing across the country. They are out in the fields, picking the crops that will be on our tables today, tomorrow, and beyond.

We had a recent hearing on farmworkers in the Senate Judiciary Committee. One of the Republican Senators said: Here we are talking about mass amnesty, giving these people an automatic path to citizenship.

Automatic? Read the bill that passed the House of Representatives. Do you know what it takes to be eligible for citizenship as a farmworker under that bill? Nineteen years of back-breaking work in the fields. Automatic? Nineteen years of slaving away at jobs that Americans don't sign up for—ever—and a possibility at the end of 19 years that they can be citizens. They should be given that chance. Every day, these workers head out to the fields and do back-breaking labor, sometimes for 14 hours straight, just to put food on our tables. Giving these people a chance to become citizens is the right thing to do.

It will help our economy. Reforms of our immigration system could add \$150 billion to spending power in our economy every year and, over the next 10 years, boost our Nation's GDP by \$1.5 trillion. That is enough money to pay off every student loan in America just by doing the right thing for immigrants in our country.

Providing these essential workers a path to citizenship puts more money in the pockets of every American. It will create 400,000 new jobs, increase each American's annual wage by \$600. These people, when they are given some clear picture of what their future will be, can plan it, can start making decisions that in the long haul will make them better and our Nation stronger. That is what it means to bring these immigrants into the sunlight and to give them a chance to be part of America.

By nearly every measure, a path to citizenship is an investment in our Nation's future. Last night, President Joe Biden agreed. It can't wait any longer. There is going to be a bill soon called reconciliation.

In 2005, Senate Republicans used the budget reconciliation process to dramatically increase the number of green cards available to immigrants. During the Trump administration, Republicans used the budget reconciliation process to enact a \$1.9 trillion tax cut for wealthy donors and corporate fat cats, and they tried to use it to repeal the Affordable Care Act. So there is ample precedent for passing important legislation through budget reconciliation.

I have tried for many years to pass a citizenship program through regular order. Senate Republicans have obstructed bipartisan immigration reform time and again, filibustering the DREAM Act five times. In 20 years, I have brought the DREAM Act to the floor five times and been stopped by the filibuster. They repeatedly blocked bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform, passing the Gang of 8 bill but never returning to it.

This year, I am convinced bipartisan immigration negotiations are not going to lead us to where we need to be. Republicans made unreasonable demands in that process to limit the path to citizenship to a number that was dreamed up by President Trump as fair—650,000 current DACA recipients. Sounds like a lot. However, that approach would exclude Dreamers who have been blocked from the program for years by President Trump. Republicans also wanted to attach partisan provisions to block innocent asylum seekers and to cut legal family immigration.

For all of these reasons, I believe the only viable option, at this time, for passing a path to citizenship is through reconciliation. The overwhelming majority of Americans support this pathway for Dreamers, many of whom have risked their lives to save Americans during the pandemic. This is a critical component of our economic recovery and rebuilding our communities. It cannot wait any longer.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate return to regular order.

VOTE ON MOTION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 288 Leg.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Graham	Padilla
Bennet	Grassley	Peters
Blumenthal	Hassan	Portman
Blunt	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Hickenlooper	Romney
Brown	Hirono	Rosen
Burr	Hoeven	Sanders
Cantwell	Kaine	Schatz
Capito	Kelly	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Leahy	Smith
Cassidy	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Van Hollen
Cramer	Menendez	Warner
Crapo	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Young

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Blackburn	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Shelby
Braun	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Tuberville
Daines	Lummis	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Sasse	

NOT VOTING—6

Inhofe	Paul	Rounds
Marshall	Risch	Rubio

The motion was agreed to.

INVESTING IN A NEW VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION IN AMERICA ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3684) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety pro-

grams, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 232, Ur Mendoza Jaddou, of California, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jacky Rosen, Debbie Stabenow, Edward J. Markey, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tina Smith, Amy Klobuchar, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Ron Wyden, Catherine Cortez Masto, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Gary C. Peters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ur Mendoza Jaddou, of California, to be Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 289 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Ernst	Murkowski
Blackburn	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Romney
Boozman	Grassley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hagerty	Scott (SC)
Capito	Hawley	Shelby
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sullivan
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Thune
Cornyn	Kennedy	Tillis
Cotton	Lankford	Toomey
Cramer	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Lummis	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	Young
Daines	Moran	

NOT VOTING—9

Burr	Marshall	Rounds
Inhofe	Paul	Rubio
Johnson	Risch	Sasse

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 50, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ur Mendoza Jaddou, of California, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, each year on July 30, we take time to celebrate whistleblowers and the very hard role that whistleblowers play in keeping our government transparent and accountable.

But the task of supporting whistleblowers doesn't start and stop on July 30; it is a year-round job. And here in this Congress, it is something that we have been working on for decades.

When I first came to Washington in the 1970s, most of the whistleblower laws we take for granted today didn't even exist then.

I like to tell people, anyone who dared to blow the whistle back at that time was about as welcome as a skunk at a picnic.

People in government would often retaliate by trying to run the whistleblower off and make them out to be the problem instead of the problem the whistleblower was trying to present.

I still hear about that kind of retaliation going on this very day in far too many cases. But, today, we have better whistleblower protections in place than we did years ago, and whistleblowers have important advocates in their corner to support them.

The Nation owes a special thanks for many of the key whistleblower protections that we have in place this very day to my former colleague and good friend, Senator Carl Levin, who died yesterday at the age of 87.

Carl was the original sponsor of the Whistleblower Protection Act back in 1989, and a cosponsor of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012.

I was proud to have worked with Carl on those foundational pieces of whistleblower legislation. I know that if Carl

were still here in the Senate this very day, he would be continuing to lead on whistleblower issues.

Carl understood that whistleblower protections are not just important to Members of Congress and a small network of interest groups in Washington, DC; they are important for the entire Nation because whistleblowers play a critical role in our government. They call attention to the problems of waste, fraud, abuse, and inefficiency.

And if you have the sort of transparency that comes because whistleblowers are ready to stand up for what is right, that transparency brings accountability to our government, and you can't have a democratic government that is not accountable.

These whistleblowers help those of us in Congress to identify problems in the government so we can fix them through oversight and, if necessary, passing legislation.

And so whistleblowers help keep government transparent and accountable to the people, and they help us find ways of saving taxpayers' dollars.

As much as Carl accomplished during his Senate career helping whistleblowers, and as much as we have accomplished together over the years, there is still more that needs to be done to ensure that whistleblowers remain protected.

One important resource for whistleblowers is the Merit Systems Protection Board, where whistleblowers can go if they face retaliation for blowing the whistle.

And let me tell you, too many whistleblowers face retaliation for doing just what is right. We ought to see them as partisans for good government.

Now, this Merit Systems Protection Board has been without a quorum for more than 2 years, and it has developed a significant backlog of cases. I am not sure what is keeping President Biden from sending us nominations for that board. I certainly believe he needs to do that without delay.

There is also still work to do to make whistleblower protections stronger and more robust. I am working on several pieces of whistleblower legislation in this Congress. One of my bills will strengthen incentives and protections for whistleblowers who report potential money laundering.

And I also have legislation to further strengthen the False Claims Act and an act entitled Program Fraud Civil Remedies by giving Agencies more resources to directly take on people who defraud the government.

In addition, I am working on legislation that will establish stronger whistleblower protections for our FBI employees. Wherever there are still gaps in our existing laws, I am working to fill those gaps.

This year, on Whistleblower Appreciation Day, the Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus welcomes two new Members: Senators COLLINS and HASSAN.

As chair of the caucus, I am pleased to welcome my colleagues. I look forward to working with these new colleagues and our caucus co-chair, Senator WYDEN of Oregon, as we continue our joint effort to make sure the whistleblower laws and protections we have in place next year and the year after are even stronger than the ones that we have in place today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

H.R. 3684

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it is 2 o'clock on a Friday afternoon, and it looks like we are going to grind through this bipartisan infrastructure bill this weekend, as Senator SCHUMER has ordained, but we have now had a couple of votes—actually, three votes now—to proceed to a bill that hasn't even been written yet in totality, and indeed the reason we were delayed this morning was because some of the text that was written did not comport with the agreement between the negotiating parties.

I have said this from the beginning; that Senator SCHUMER should not rush a bill to the floor before it is ready. It is simply not a good practice. And we are talking about more than \$1 trillion in spending that will affect every man, woman, and child in America. It is more important to get things right than to get it done fast.

For weeks now, the bipartisan group of Senators who have been negotiating this bipartisan infrastructure package have been engaged in intense negotiations with the White House to find common ground. Over the last several days, in particular, colleagues have logged countless hours to nail down specific provisions and how it would be paid for.

I want to commend all of them for their efforts on both sides of the aisle. It has been a long road, but we still have a long road ahead, and I appreciate both sides working in good faith to try to reach an agreement.

Like all my colleagues, I am eager to see the text in the bill to understand the specifics and how it impacts my State, what is included and what is not included. To gain my support, this legislation must accomplish two things: First, it must send sufficient resources to Texas to build and maintain our vast network of infrastructure projects. We are the fastest growing State in the Nation, with 29 million people, and we need to make sure our infrastructure is up to the need. We have the largest network of roadways of any State in the country, with more than 680,000 lane miles. We are also home to more than 55,000 bridges, far more than any other State.

We have water ports along the gulf coast, as the Presiding Officer knows, having lived in Houston, and ports of entry along the border with Mexico and Canada, all of which are critical to our economy, as well as airports, levees, waterways, and countless other infrastructure projects that are vital to our communities across the State.

The pandemic has also highlighted the importance of broadband, including the need to expand access in unserved parts of the State. It is figured that we have about a third of our State without adequate access to broadband, and, of course, that became critical when our children were studying remotely from home or when people attempted to see their doctor using telehealth. Broadband has gone from a convenience to a necessity.

It is going to take a little while to comb through the specifics of this massive bill—I think at last count it was 2,600 pages long—to see if it meets my two criteria. But that is my priority No. 1.

But my second criterion is this bill must include a real plan to pay for these infrastructure investments in a responsible way. We have had to spend a lot of money in the last 18 months. A lot of this money was borrowed money because we were engaged in an emergency, a pandemic. But now our debt to gross domestic product is really roughly to what it was after World War II, and I agree that most of that was necessary, at least the bipartisan bills that we passed. I think there were a total of five last year.

But now is not an emergency when it comes to infrastructure. Now, this is the bread and butter of legislating, and we have got to come up with a responsible way to pay for the money that we intend to spend.

The current draft of the bill, I think, is lacking in adequate pay-fors. Senator PORTMAN, the Senator from Ohio, said that the Congressional Budget Office would not give the writers of the bill credit for some of the money that is in fact real, some of the repurposed money from COVID-19 that was not used for Federal bonuses to State unemployment, which was, at one point, rejected by the Governors because people were being paid more money not to work than to work. So there wasn't a pot of money to offset some of the spending.

But I think there are additional pay-fors that have been overlooked. So I am in the process of drafting amendments to this bill, including new pay-fors, and I hope these amendments will come to a vote on the Senate floor.

I support the efforts of our colleagues on a bipartisan basis to negotiate the current package. I think they have done us a great favor. But the fact of the matter is, the rest of us, the 80 of us who did not participate in those negotiations, have a right and a duty to participate in writing this legislation too. So it would be a terrible mistake for the majority leader to refuse to

allow Members on both sides to offer amendments which could pass and could improve the underlying bill.

It goes without saying that this bill did not go through regular order, which is nothing more than saying it didn't go through the normal committee process. But the benefit of going through the normal committee process is that both majority and minority Members get a chance to participate in writing a bill in the committee even before it comes to the floor.

So now that we have a bill that was negotiated and which, I suppose, at some point we will see in the light of day, but one that was negotiated by only a small fraction of Senators, it is even more critical that we have an open amendment process.

As I said earlier, a transportation infrastructure bill ordinarily would go through an arduous process, through, I think, at least three standing committees—through the Banking Committee, through the Commerce Committee, and through the Environment and Public Works Committee. But that did not happen here.

The bipartisan group of Senators did find common ground among themselves, and now it is time for the full Senate to have the opportunity to offer changes that will improve this legislation and allow all Senators a chance to participate in shaping them.

Our friend, Senator PORTMAN, the Senator from Ohio, said the bipartisan group is committed to having a fair process that allows both sides an opportunity to amend the bill. Senator MCCONNELL has also called for a robust, bipartisan floor process. So I would encourage Senator SCHUMER, the floor leader, to accept amendments from Members of both sides of the aisle to strengthen the legislation and ensure that it meets the needs of our constituents.

There is no question that the roads and bridges across the country are in need of repair. Every year, the American Society of Civil Engineers evaluates the state of our infrastructure and issues a report card to let us know how we are doing.

Well, America is barely passing with a C-minus. Texas is faring slightly better than the rest of the class, with a C. But it is time, as you can tell, for us to invest in our roads and bridges and the ports and waterways that fuel our economy and the broadband that keeps us connected.

I have been disappointed that Senator SCHUMER has seen fit to try to force us to vote on a bill that does not yet exist in its entirety, but I hope we can now pump the brakes a little bit and take the time and care to evaluate the benefits and the costs of this legislation, and I hope that there will be an amendment process available to both sides of the aisle to ensure that our infrastructure investments are made fairly and they are paid for responsibly.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING CARL LEVIN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I am sorry to begin my remarks today with a third Senate eulogy for this week alone.

Last evening, we received word that our former colleague from Michigan, Senator Carl Levin, passed away at the age of 87. Carl's fellow Michiganders elected and reelected him six times. He was the longest serving Senator from Michigan ever. His home State liked what they had in this passionate activist turned attorney, turned public servant. His dutiful, diligent, and detail-oriented approach led Senator Levin to build expertise and win respect across a huge range of issues.

The pinnacle of our colleague's career was his years atop the Senate Armed Services Committee. I certainly did not always reach the same conclusions that Carl did, but his independence, his genuine humble curiosity, and his affection for the men and women who wear the uniform were impossible to dispute.

He was earnest. He was solid, forthright, and devoted to the defense of our Nation in ways that he thought best.

I especially admired Carl's courageous, consistent defense of the Senate filibuster and the unique structures that define this institution. He never let short-term political facts cloud his long-term judgment in that crucial area.

I know all of our condolences go out to Barbara and the entire Levin family today and to all Senators, staff, and friends who will miss our colleague.

THE ECONOMY

Now, Mr. President, on a completely different matter, we learned yesterday that last quarter, our GDP finally regained its prepandemic level. It has taken about a year of economic growth just to recover back to where we started.

Obviously, we are still far below where our pre-COVID trajectory would have had us today. Before this 100-year pandemic, Republican policies had helped build the best economic moment for American workers in recent memory. Unemployment was at remarkable lows. Wages were on the rise. Pay was growing faster for workers toward the bottom of the income scale—actually faster than those at the top.

That was then. This is now. For the last several months, a different philosophy has guided our recovery. Our

Democratic friends believe in borrowing, spending, and taxing at dizzying rates. They want to engineer some kind of socialist recovery from the top down. So how is it going? Well, that GDP report that came out yesterday was actually a substantial miss. Our economy grew almost 25 percent slower than the experts had predicted—another economic disappointment.

Now, remember, this new administration and this Democratic Congress were set up for success unlike any other transition we had seen in our lifetimes. They inherited not one, not two, but three safe and effective vaccines that were spreading around the country. They inherited an economy that was raring to come back, thanks to five bipartisan rescue packages we passed last year.

But instead of helping the American people get back to normal, Democrats decided they wanted to build back bloated—build back bloated. They jammed through a massive \$2 trillion so-called COVID package that only spent about 1 percent on vaccinations and less than 10 percent on public health. The rest went to a litany—a literal litany—of inflationary liberal spending.

Now American families are paying the price: slower hiring than expected, slower growth than expected, a weaker comeback than expected. Their policies are sticking it to the middle-class families through higher prices at the grocery store, at the gas pump, at the hardware store, at the car dealership, in the housing market, and practically everywhere else that matters to families.

Employers large and small, down to Main Street shops and construction sites, are struggling to hire and turning down work because Democrats decided taxpayers should keep directly paying people to stay home. Our country is flooded with safe, effective, and free vaccines for anyone who wants one, but Democrats are still making small businesses bid against a special government handout that rewards, believe it or not, not working.

Our bipartisan work last year left our country primed and ready for a comeback summer, but it is becoming clearer and clearer that Democrats in the Capitol and down Pennsylvania Avenue pursued economic policies that have fumbled the handoff.

Now, in the days ahead, Democrats want to steamroll ahead with yet another reckless tax-and-spending spree: more untinged borrowing, printing, and spending; more welfare spending with no—listen to this—no work requirements; everything from amnesty to big chunks of the Green New Deal and historic tax hikes poured on top for good measure. This kind of reckless taxing-and-spending spree would make their last failed package look like a walk in the park, and the pain that families are already feeling would just be beginning.

NOMINATION OF DAVID H. CHIPMAN

Mr. President, now on one final matter, the President has made an inexplicable choice in nominating David Chipman to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This nominee has a long track record of open hostility to law-abiding Americans' Second Amendment rights. He is a loud, proud, would-be gun-grabber who has made it a personal mission to erode the Bill of Rights for the citizens of this country.

This is an especially awful time to be taking aim at Americans' right to keep and bear arms. Remember, as the political left has sought to vilify and defund the police across our country, homicides have, of course, surged. Last year's spike in the national murder rate was the steepest since, believe it or not, 1960.

So, as Democrats have made political war on the police, many citizens have started to think about self-protection. We have seen members of racial minority groups joining the parade of first-time gun owners in record numbers. But then Democrats don't like that either. Apparently, the left neither wants strong police forces, nor do they want Americans equipped for self-defense.

This nominee is unsuited enough for this job on policy merits, but somehow all this is just the tip of the iceberg of the concerns.

Mr. Chipman also comes with a distressing workplace reputation. Current and former ATF agents, once his colleagues, have described him as an "activist" and a "bully." Those are direct quotes. By one account, his policy views are "extreme" and his demeanor unsettling. I understand that just this week, even graver concerns have surfaced. According to one report, multiple ATF sources say there exists an internal complaint over racially insensitive comments allegedly made by the nominee in the workplace.

I don't expect that a Democratic President would pick somebody to run the ATF who will have our side of the aisle popping corks, but this is another level altogether.

Anyone who supports the Bill of Rights should oppose this nomination. There is no way this nominee is the best the Biden administration can do.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I rarely come to the floor to directly respond to speeches given by my colleagues. I normally like to use the Chamber to make my own arguments on their merits rather than to make arguments against specific colleagues.

But yesterday I listened to a speech by Senator CRUZ of Texas, and it was one of the most dangerous speeches that I have ever heard given on the Senate floor, and it deserves a response.

Now, I understand that Republicans don't want to talk about the economy. They don't want to talk about the fact that we have had more jobs added to the economy in the first 5 months of President Biden's term than any other first-term President. I know they don't want to talk about the rapid expansion of the economy that is happening.

I understand Republicans don't want to talk about what we are debating on the Senate floor right now, which is the biggest bipartisan investment in infrastructure in the history of the country.

And I also understand that the Senator from Texas doesn't like the new guidance announced this week by the CDC. And he is not alone. From what I can tell, a lot of Republicans here are upset, as are a lot of nonpolitical Americans. Nobody likes to wear a mask. Nobody likes that the new recommendation is that some Americans need to wear them. Again, I don't like wearing a mask. I hate it. My kids hate the masks more.

But here is what the CDC said. The CDC's scientists have been carefully following this dramatic increase in cases that we have seen all across the country as the Delta variant spreads, even through vaccinated people. First, we can't ignore this, the fact that there has been this huge increase in cases. The national 7-day average is triple what it was from a month ago. We are averaging 40,000 new cases a day.

This is a big problem, and it is overwhelming parts of our healthcare system. Now, I wish this weren't the case, but it requires us to think about adjusting policy.

Second, the CDC is looking at this new evidence that indicates that even fully vaccinated individuals who become infected with the Delta variant can carry the virus and transmit it to others, even if they don't get sick. Now, this latest development is important because it allows the Delta variant, the more contagious variant, to spread faster. Early information from the CDC shows that the Delta variant is as contagious as the chickenpox, more contagious than earlier strains of COVID.

And, remember, not every American today is vaccinated. For instance, my youngest son is 9 years old. He can't get vaccinated. If the evidence suggests that I can transmit the virus to him, even if my vaccine prevents me from getting really sick, then that matters.

Finally, with so many Americans still unvaccinated, the virus still has plenty of bodies in which to mutate. Right now, the good news is that we have got three authorized COVID-19 vaccines that are pretty effective against severe illness. But the worry is

that eventually the vaccine is going to mutate into a version of itself that is resistant to the current vaccines. And with so many Americans choosing to stay unvaccinated and evidence suggesting that vaccinated people who are infected with the Delta variant can transmit it to people who are unvaccinated, the CDC has concluded that, right now, we need to take additional steps to cut down on the pathways that the virus has to spread and keep mutating before it is too late, and we have a virus that our vaccines don't work against at all.

Now, what does the new guidance say? It recommends that fully vaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings, in places in the country where there are a lot of cases. And since most young kids aren't vaccinated, the CDC is also recommending that, when school opens, teachers and kids should wear masks.

That is the argument that the CDC is making. That is the evidence upon which they have issued their new guidance. And it is perfectly legitimate to contest the CDC's decision or the reasons that they gave for making the decision. It is OK for anybody in this body to disagree with the conclusions that they reach.

But that is not what Senator CRUZ did yesterday. He didn't come to the floor and argue against the merits of the CDC's argument. No. In fact, not once during the speech—and I watched the whole speech—did he ever reference the actual reasons for the CDC's new guidance, not once.

In fact, he claimed that the CDC offered no explanation. At one point, after mischaracterizing the CDC's announcement, he asked rhetorically why the CDC changed the guidance. "Who knows?" he said. Anyone who listened to that speech or, frankly, many other speeches that are being given by Republicans all across Capitol Hill this week would logically come to the conclusion that the CDC had offered not a single explanation for the new guidance.

Then, after creating the impression that the CDC didn't have any reasons for the new recommendation, the Senator from Texas announced that he had discovered the reason. He said that the real reason the CDC changed their guidance was because the CDC is "an arm of the Democratic National Committee" and that Democrats in Congress are "faithful little foot soldiers" of the CDC.

He offered no explanation as to why it would benefit Democrats politically or the DNC or the CDC to recommend mask wearing. He just simply claimed that the CDC was a political puppet of the DNC and the guidance was politically motivated.

The closest he came to a more detailed explanation of this claim was when he talked about the school guidance. There the Senator from Texas claimed, without any evidence, that the only reason the CDC made this decision was because it was demanded by

“union bosses” and that the “CDC said ‘Ma’am, yes, ma’am, we will issue the order demanded by the union bosses.’”

That is all made up. And the Senator from Texas isn’t the only Republican saying things like this. There are dozens of national Republicans making these same wild, unfounded allegations.

The political agenda at the CDC that Republicans allege is a fiction. It is constructed out of thin air. And it is, frankly, an insult to the thousands of dedicated, nonpolitical public health professionals at the CDC who just go to work every day trying to keep Americans safe.

These aren’t politicians. These are epidemiologists and scientists and doctors who have worked their entire lives trying to keep this country safe. I am not saying they get it right every time. I have criticized many of the decisions made by the CDC during the pandemic. It is OK to criticize their decisions, but to claim that they are all corrupt, they are these politically controlled “hacks,” that is an outrage.

And rhetoric like that is going to get people killed because we are still in the middle of the epidemic, and what anti-CDC Republicans are doing through these attacks on our public health agencies is to intentionally undermine people’s faith in the Nation’s pre-eminent public health institutions right at the moment where we need people to believe in them.

I am not saying they should be immune from criticism, but criticism should be based on the science. Contest the new evidence the CDC says that requires people to wear masks again, but saying that the scientists are deliberately ignoring the science to effectuate some top-secret political agenda—give me a break.

And, by the way, what political interest is served by recommending that people wear masks indoors again? People hate masks. There is only political downside to suggesting that people start wearing them again. It just belies plain old common sense to say that politics is behind the new guidance.

If the CDC was worried about politics, they certainly wouldn’t be recommending anybody wear masks again. And, by the way, that is all the CDC is doing: They are giving guidance. Over and over, Republicans refer to this new guidance as an “order” or, as the Senator from Texas said repeatedly, an “edict.” They know that is not true. They know that is not true.

But Republicans want to scare you into believing that the Federal Government has more power than it does. The CDC doesn’t require people to do anything; they issue recommendations. But that doesn’t suit this narrative about socialist, statist Democrats secretly pulling the strings of their marionettes at the CDC.

It is ridiculous. It is ridiculous.

Don’t come to the Senate floor and make things up. Don’t destroy people’s reputations and careers with wild, un-

substantiated allegations about political motivations. The CDC doesn’t get it right 100 percent of the time, but they don’t have some secret political agenda. But the more people believe that they do, the less likely it is that people will follow their recommendations the 90, 95 percent of the time that they do get it right, and that will guarantee that this virus never disappears.

I understand there is an element of the Republican Party that just wants to destroy all government institutions and is seeking to discredit any effort by any public agency to do good in this country. In normal times, I would argue that that is dangerous, but in the middle of a pandemic it is deadly. And Republicans of conscience should come to this floor and start telling the truth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

H.R. 3684

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, after weeks like this, I find it hard to explain to Floridians back home how Congress is actually working on behalf of their families.

I think it is safe to say that every Member of the Senate believes we should be investing in infrastructure. For me, it is pretty simple. I believe we should invest in real infrastructure: roads, bridges, airports, and seaports.

As Governor of Florida, I did just that. Over my 8 years as Governor, Florida invested \$85 billion in real infrastructure across our State, and we did it while cutting taxes and fees 100 times and paying off a third of our State debt. In other words, we paid for these big investments in infrastructure by growing our economy and supporting job creation. That is what is important to Floridians, and I am immensely proud of our accomplishments.

So I support doing the exact same thing at the Federal level. But what we are doing here just doesn’t make any sense. Nowhere in the world does business happen like it does here in the U.S. Congress.

We started this week with ongoing negotiations about a big infrastructure deal. Of course, outside of the small group involved in these negotiations, no one here had any clue what was actually being debated. We had no text; we had no real information on how much was being spent; and we certainly had no idea how this was all supposed to be paid for.

Then, on Wednesday, we got the big news: A deal had been reached. Well, that might be great, but we still had no real details. We still don’t have the text of the bill.

Now the majority leader expects us to start voting on amendments, and maybe even this whole package, this weekend. This is insanity. Nowhere in the world would this be the process. We are expected to make a decision on spending \$1.2 trillion of American taxpayer dollars, and no one in the U.S. Senate has had the chance to even read the bill.

Typically, the Congressional Budget Office would score a bill like this before the Senate considers it. That score gives us important information about the true cost and financial impact of the legislation on the Federal Government and the American people. Of course, that is not the case with this bill. The CBO hasn’t had the chance to review it at all.

Do you think any company would sign off on a massive expense without all the details? Would a family make a huge purchase without knowing exactly what it is for? Of course not. But that is how things work here in Congress, and that is not right.

This is exactly why I ran for the U.S. Senate, to make Washington work for Florida families and stop this madness of reckless spending and backroom deals that don’t deliver and aren’t paid for.

Speaking of pay-fors, well, they just don’t exist in this bill. This is how backward and awful Washington is. People up here think they can just make big, empty promises and sell it to the American people. They think families will just buy whatever they are selling, no questions asked.

Nope. It is time for some accountability. My friend from Indiana, Senator BRAUN, recently did a great job of laying out the claims and facts of the so-called pay-fors in this bill, so I am going to borrow from him a bit to show what is really going on here. Here are just a few of the most ridiculous examples.

First, half of this bill is supposedly paid for with \$550 billion from the highway trust fund. That fund is \$100 billion in the red. The money isn’t there. So that is not real.

The bill also proposes using billions of repurposed COVID relief funding. I am all for repurposing this money, but we borrowed it to begin with, so this is robbing Peter to pay Paul. It is not like it is free money.

They also want to use \$49 billion in savings for delaying a Medicare Part D rebate rule and another \$9 million paid for another year of mandatory sequester. Why would we cut Medicare to pay for roads?

The 4.6 million seniors in Florida deserve better. Any savings in the Medicare Program should stay in the Medicare Program. Let’s all remember, the Medicare trust fund is actually heading toward bankruptcy.

And, of course, there are a handful of other fee increases thrown in there with lofty and unrealistic revenue estimates that they will claim will get us fully paying for this \$1.2 trillion package.

What they won’t say is that these fees will almost certainly increase the costs of everyday goods and make it more expensive to get a mortgage and afford a home.

There is no shame in Washington; just greed. Everyone wants so badly to say that they have given you something, but they always forget to mention the cost and that you actually

have to pay for it. The cost is important.

I have said it a million times, and I will say it again: Reckless government spending causes higher inflation. It is a proven fact. And we are seeing the consequences of reckless spending across America right now.

Eighty-seven percent—eighty-seven percent—of Americans are worried about inflation. Low- and fixed-income families are having to cut back on purchases because of rising costs. I am hearing it from families across Florida who are worried.

A father of three in Jacksonville is temporarily helping take care of two other kids because their father is out of work. He has started working a second job driving Uber just to pay for groceries that are rapidly increasing in price. Now his Uber job is becoming less and less profitable because of the rising price of gas. Gas is up over 50 percent in 1 year.

A mother of four in Wauchula said that she used to be able to go to the grocery store and spend a certain amount for an entire month's groceries. Now she can't. Two hundred dollars in meat is no longer enough to feed her family of five. She has been forced to choose between gas to get to work and groceries for her family and is picking up extra jobs just to make ends meet.

I can relate to this. I grew up in a poor family. My mom would take in ironing for extra money. She would give either my older brother or me the exact change to go to the grocery store, but she said: You have to check the price of everything because things are going up in price, and if we don't have enough money, you cannot buy it.

A restaurant owner in Tampa told me that the cost of meat has gone up from \$9 a pound to \$18. Gas prices and food prices, coupled with the struggle to find workers, have been very hard on his business.

Another family in Kissimmee told me how hard it is to keep food on the table because everything is so expensive. They are having trouble keeping their car because of the cost of maintenance and gas, but if he doesn't have a car, he wouldn't have a way to get to work to take care of his family.

The price of gas affects nearly everyone. Right now, average gas prices are up nearly a dollar since last year. For a family who fills up their gas tank once a week, if they drive a car, that means Joe Biden raised their expenses \$600 a year. If they drive a truck, Joe Biden raised their expenses by \$1,000 a year.

So next time you hear a big promise, remember these stories. These are real people bearing the real cost of the Democrats' reckless spending in Washington.

Biden and the Democrats say they care about people, but they have done absolutely nothing to help families struggle to keep up with inflation. Their plan is to spend more money, not less.

We have nearly \$30 trillion in debt, and there are no plans to slow down. And that is exactly what we are seeing in this bill. We can't forget that this is just the start. CHUCK SCHUMER said it on the floor yesterday. This is just part one and leads to Biden's and the Democrats' \$5.5 trillion tax-and-spending spree on their liberal priorities. These two bills are together. They are welded together. There is no separating them.

Right now, the message that President Biden and Democrats here in Washington are sending to the American people is clear: They don't care about inflation. They don't care that their reckless spending is causing prices to skyrocket. If that is the cost of getting their liberal wish list, so be it. They aren't focused on inflation or spending, just on more government dependency and control.

Just look at what is happening this week with new COVID mask and vaccine mandates. I had COVID, and I got the vaccine. I think people should get vaccinated. But that is not what this is about. It is not about taking a measured approach and following the science and telling exactly how they came to the conclusion. It is about creating fear and chaos to grab power and control you.

I am here to say that enough is enough. It is time to wake up to reality. It is time for every fiscally responsible Member of the Senate to join me to say we don't accept the status quo. We won't watch in silence while the futures of our children and our grandchildren are mortgaged and this Nation is driven deeper in debt with reckless and wasteful spending. We won't stand by while inflation wreaks havoc on our families and businesses. We can get spending under control, but we have to start accepting responsibility, and the time to do that is now. This isn't political. It is good government, and it is common sense.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

NOMINATION OF UR MENDOZA JADDOU

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for almost 20 years, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, known as USCIS, has been charged with defending America's status as the land of opportunity. The Agency has nearly 20,000 employees. They operate in 220 offices around the world, where they provide assistance to immigrants seeking a new life in America and help protect America from any foreign threats.

But after 4 years of neglect and mismanagement under the Trump administration, USCIS is in dire need of leadership. Today, the Senate has an opportunity to provide that Agency with that leadership by confirming Ur Jaddou as USCIS Director. Ms. Jaddou may be the most qualified person ever to be nominated for this job. She has nearly 20 years of experience in immigration law, policy, and administration. She is the daughter of immigrants from Mexico and Iraq. She personally

understands the importance of ensuring our Nation's immigration system is both accessible and safe. And if confirmed, Ms. Jaddou would make history as the very first woman to lead USCIS.

Let me tell you a little bit about her background. Ms. Jaddou began her career working on immigration policy and oversight for 9 years in the House of Representatives. She worked for my friend and former colleague ZOE LOFGREN of California, who is the authoritative voice on immigration in the House of Representatives.

Following that role, Ms. Jaddou served as a senior official in the State Department and then as Chief Counsel at USCIS. As the Agency's highest ranking legal officer, Ms. Jaddou not only sharpened her mastery of immigration law, she also gained valuable experience navigating USCIS's administrative complexities and operations. As Chief Counsel at this Agency, she managed more than 220 attorneys who support the work of tens of thousands of USCIS employees who are located in offices around the world.

Ms. Jaddou's extensive background is exactly what we need at this moment.

As I mentioned, the Trump administration led a deliberate effort to undermine this Agency's work. You remember—anything relating to immigration, the Trump administration tried to create a problem. For instance, when the former President took office, USCIS had approximately \$800 million in cash reserves. Not bad. Four years later, those cash reserves had been virtually depleted, putting thousands of Federal employees at the Agency at risk of being furloughed in the middle of a pandemic.

These Federal employees deserve leadership that advocates for their interests and supports their work. Ms. Jaddou is that person. In fact, the union that represents over 13,000 USCIS employees published a letter in support of her nomination, writing: "Ms. Jaddou is well-acquainted with the significant financial and operational challenges facing the Agency."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce sent a letter in support of her nomination as well. They wrote: "Ms. Jaddou's knowledge and experience would be indispensable in providing the critical leadership needed to stabilize the agency."

Leaders inside government and outside government recognize that Ms. Jaddou is the legal expert our Nation needs to take the reins of this vital Agency.

Given the urgent need for Senate-confirmed leadership to address the critical issues they face, as well as Ms. Jaddou's eminent qualifications for that position, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Mr. President, I would like to say a word in response to the speech just given by the Senator from Florida, the junior Senator from Florida.

There is something called the American Rescue Plan that President Joe Biden brought before Congress. The American Rescue Plan was his first offering. We had done things before in light of the pandemic. I remember them well. It was March of 2020. We had the American CARES Act.

The American CARES Act—there was virtually unanimous, bipartisan support for a policy that was written by President Trump as well as Members of Congress. We stood together, and I am glad we did, because we were going into a pandemic, the likes of which America has not seen for 100 years. It was a dramatic investment in people, in resources, and in businesses to keep America safe through that pandemic, and it worked.

At the end of the year of 2020, we had another bill—this bill was about \$900 billion—to once again help deal with unemployment compensation, loans for businesses, help for families, ways to help schools reopen. We voted again unanimously—virtually unanimously—on a bipartisan basis.

So in the Trump administration, when it came to coming together as a nation, Democrats stood with Republicans. Democrats even stood with a Republican President for the good of the Nation. I was proud of what we did. I can't imagine what America would have been like without it.

Then came the election. All bets were off. Everything changed. After the election and the Big Lie, where President Trump raced around the country—still does—claiming that he truly won the election and having no proof or evidence to that fact, we noticed a souring of this bipartisanship when it came to dealing with the pandemic.

Then came the American Rescue Plan by President Biden, the new President, who wanted to address issues that still were troubling America in light of the pandemic. What happened then when we called the American Rescue Plan? Where was the bipartisanship that we had seen during the Trump years? Completely gone. Not one single Republican Senator, including the Senator from Florida, was willing to stand up and vote for Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan; not one Member of the Republican Party in the House of Representatives.

So what was it that was in the American Rescue Plan that was so objectionable that not a single Republican would vote for it? Well, there were some ideas that turned out to be vital.

One of them was to put enough money into the Biden administration so that these lifesaving vaccines could be distributed around the United States of America and people could finally get a shot in the arm and save their lives by it. That was one of the things the Republicans weren't willing to vote for, but it wasn't the only one. We proceeded to give loans to businesses again so that they could open up and rehire their employees. Not a single Republican would vote to support

that. We have \$1,400 being sent to each and every family in America—a promise made by President Trump, kept by President Biden—and not a single Republican would vote to support that as well.

When you go through the list of things that we did in the American Rescue Plan, they were valuable.

One of them was a tax cut for families, families with children—a tax cut which started just a couple of weeks ago. Tax cuts used to be the war cry of the Republican Party, but when it came to tax cuts for children, not a single Republican Senator would vote for it—not one. And now they come and they argue: This Joe Biden's plan just isn't working.

Well, I will tell you what is working. We have about 50 or 60 percent of Americans vaccinated with at least one shot at this point. I hope we have more so we can put this pandemic behind us. We have done it because we had a plan to distribute this vaccine across America and still do. That was something America needed, and not a single Republican Senator would vote for it—not one.

I can't understand their thinking on this. They have lots of criticism about President Biden, but when it came to the parts of his program that really made a difference when America needed it, not a single one of them would join us.

Wouldn't it be good to get back to bipartisanship, such as the bill that we are going to be debating on the floor, the bipartisan infrastructure bill, which the Senator from Florida does not support, he said?

This notion of bipartisanship appears to be very troubling and difficult for many of my Republican colleagues, but we have a chance here because 16 Republicans, the night before last, cast a vote in favor of moving forward to really have an opportunity to do something significant for this country and its economy.

An investment in infrastructure is an investment in the future of this country. I hope that the Republicans will join us to see this completed in the next few days so we can move on to other considerations of elements that might be good in this recovery. But we need their help.

To have Republican Senators come to the floor, refuse to vote for the American Rescue Plan, and criticize even this bipartisan effort, is a suggestion that they didn't get the message: America is looking for us to cooperate, to come together to solve problems, not just to create political headlines.

We will have a chance, and I hope we do soon, to vote for this bill. I think it is an important bill that is going to revitalize this country and keep the economy on the move.

VOTE ON JADDOU NOMINATION

Before I yield the floor, I ask unanimous consent that all remaining time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jaddou nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 290 Ex.]

YEAS—47

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—34

Blunt	Fischer	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Romney
Braun	Grassley	Scott (FL)
Capito	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Hoeven	Shelby
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Toomey
Cramer	Lee	Wicker
Crapo	Lummis	Young
Cruz	McConnell	
Ernst	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—19

Barrasso	Johnson	Rubio
Blackburn	King	Sanders
Burr	Marshall	Sasse
Daines	Moran	Tillis
Feinstein	Paul	Tuberville
Hagerty	Risch	
Inhofe	Rounds	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). On this vote the yeas are 47, the nays are 34.

The nomination is confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The Senator from Michigan.

REMEMBERING CARL LEVIN

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today, I stand here with colleagues—my partner, Senator PETERS, and, of course, Senator REED and other colleagues—to pay tribute to an incredible leader and my dear friend who dedicated his life to serving the people of his beloved State of Michigan and this Nation—Senator Carl Levin.

Senator Carl Levin was many things: a crusader for truth and justice, in the real sense of the word; a man of strong convictions; a mentor to so many of us.

He was a Senator's Senator and a tireless advocate every day—every day—for the people of Michigan.

He was also my friend, and it was truly an honor of a lifetime for me to represent Michigan alongside Carl Levin for 14 years of his 36 years that he served in the Senate.

Thirty-six years is a long time, but Senator Levin remained effective and at the same time humble right up until the final day he served. That is because integrity never goes out of style and Senator Carl Levin never wavered in his dedication to do what was right—what was right for the people of Michigan and our country.

Perhaps he will be remembered most—although there are so many things—for his incredible leadership on the Armed Services Committee. Patriotism was a lot more than a flag pin or a pledge to Carl Levin. He understood more than anybody what it takes to defend our Nation. Perhaps no one has done more to ensure that our men and women in uniform are battle ready with the supplies and technology that they need and the fair pay and benefits they have earned.

In fact, Senator Levin worked so hard on behalf of our military that he received a Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. There is a suite of offices at the Pentagon named after him, and there is a naval destroyer currently being built in Maine that will probably bear his name: the USS *Carl M. Levin*. It was so inspiring to be with him during the naming ceremony in Detroit back in 2016.

It is fitting that he should be honored in this way because Carl Levin always believed that our government could be a force for good. This belief was passed down to him from his parents, who saw firsthand how the New Deal rescued families from desperate poverty.

A young Carl Levin admired Harry S. Truman, especially Senator Truman, who drove cross-country investigating

defense contractors who were committing fraud and wasting billions of dollars. I think Truman himself would have been incredibly impressed with Carl's leadership of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

A former civil rights attorney, Carl Levin relished the chance to cross-examine those he suspected of ripping off taxpayers and the public. His committee room was never a literal trial by fire, but he certainly turned up the heat on unscrupulous executives, special interests, or anybody who tried to get rich at the expense of everyday Americans. Those executives were sweating because they knew that Senator Levin had done his homework. He would dig so deep that he knew more about what they were going to say than they would.

Carl Levin could topple a tycoon with nothing more than a stack of subpoenaed documents. And we saw him do it. In 2007, he shined a light on abusive practices by credit card companies, leading to laws that required more transparency. Even today, your credit card statement contains more disclosures and more information, thanks to Senator Carl Levin.

His fellow Michiganders got to see a kinder, gentler side of Carl as well, and I know we did as colleagues. And I will never forget how his eyes sparkled when he smiled, with his glasses down on the end of his nose.

His heart was always in Detroit, where he was born and raised and lived his entire life. Meanwhile, his soul was nourished by the tranquility he found in beautiful northern Michigan in the Upper Peninsula, especially Isle Royale.

Carl helped Detroit make one of the most spectacular comebacks in American history, and everywhere you look, you can see evidence of his hard work. The Levin Center at Wayne State Law teaches future attorneys and business leaders and lawmakers and public servants how legislative oversight can be a tool for change and a force for good. He led the way on getting Federal funding for Detroit's beautiful International RiverWalk, which, today, features 3 miles of parks, nature areas, and breathtaking waterfront views.

In the midst of the Great Recession, we worked together closely to rescue our American auto industry, which for years had been battered by the forces of globalization. Carl Levin understood that manufacturing is the backbone of our State's economy and that our country needs to make things in order to have them.

As a member of the Small Business Committee, Carl also understood the importance of small business. In fact, in getting dressed today, I was looking at what I could wear that would symbolize Detroit, and I picked out a necklace that reminds me of what motivated Carl in Detroit with small businesses.

Amy Peterson is a Detroit entrepreneur who wanted to empower

women who have employment barriers, and Senator PETERS and I have both visited her shop. So, in 2013, she created Rebel Nell jewelry out of graffiti that had fallen off of walls on the sides of buildings. Today, she is incredibly successful, and she is empowering and employing women throughout the Detroit area.

Carl loved efforts like that. He championed small businesses, folks who wanted to—one after the other, have an idea and get it going.

Carl also understood that our landscape, our soil, our water are part of our Michigan way of life. That is why he pushed for years to have land at Sleeping Bear Dunes protected as wilderness—our beautiful dunes.

Senator Levin fought for the National Marine Sanctuary at Thunder Bay in Alpena and for the creation of the Keweenaw National Historic Park. It was an honor partnering with him in every single fight to protect our Great Lakes.

I can stand here for hours listing Senator Carl Levin's accomplishments, but they still only are a small testament to his character, his compassion, his humor, his strength of conviction.

President Truman once said:

Make no little plans. [Make no little plans.] Make the biggest one you can think of and spend the rest of your life carrying it out.

Senator Carl Levin lived those words every day. He wanted to make our State and our country the best it can be, and he spent his life doing everything he could to make that happen.

I wish his beloved wife and life partner Barbara; his brother and best friend Sandy; his nephew and our colleague ANDY LEVIN; his wonderful daughters Kate, Laura, and Erica; his grandchildren; and all of the family my deepest condolences and profound gratitude for your willingness to share this great man with all of us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory of a true lion of the U.S. Senate, Michigan Senator Carl Levin. Yesterday, he passed away at the age of 87, surrounded by his loving family.

Carl was well known as a fierce advocate for Michigan and a force of nature in the Senate, but the most important thing to him was his family. He cherished his role as a brother, husband, father, uncle, and grandfather. And I know his family and his loved ones are all reeling from this enormous loss. I along with folks all across the State of Michigan are praying for them during this very difficult time.

Over his 36 years of service to the Senate, the most ever for a Michigan Senator, Carl made an immeasurable impact. He served as the chairman of not just one, but two extremely powerful committees. He was simultaneously a zealous progressive voice in the Senate and one of its most bipartisan

Members, able to forge strong relationships with his Republican colleagues and find pragmatic compromise to get results.

I remember when Carl was first elected to the U.S. Senate, making a very impressive leap from the Detroit City Council to a statewide office. I was in college at the time, and over the years, I closely followed his service and his career in politics. He was someone who I looked up to and came to know as both a role model and as a mentor.

He was always gracious with his time and his wisdom, and I cherish the conversations that we had over the years, from my time years ago serving in the Michigan State Senate to my time in the U.S. House of Representatives. When Carl announced he would be retiring in 2014, I sought out his guidance and his blessing to run to fill his seat. As the campaign progressed, he gave me his endorsement and his full-throated support. I was both honored and humbled.

When I was sworn into my first term in the Senate, Carl presented me with an old map of Michigan and a handwritten note. It hangs in my front office to this day, and every time that I walk through the door, I am reminded of Carl, of his service, and his integrity.

Carl was a unique figure on Capitol Hill. He had no interest in the trappings of power. He saw service as its own reward. And he could certainly be a little disheveled in his appearance. He was very frugal. He wore inexpensive suits, and his loving wife Barbara would routinely sew up the holes in his pockets so he could get just a few more years out of his suits. Legend has it he once noticed a mustard stain on his shirt and he painted over it with Wite-Out so he could get back to work. His glasses were always precariously perched on the end of his nose, and he would fix you with a piercing gaze over those rims. Despite his small stature, he was also an incredibly intimidating figure, largely due to that gaze, his intellect, and his incredible work ethic.

Nowhere were those traits more apparent than in his role leading the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, also known as PSI. When Carl held the gavel, getting a letter or a phone call from his investigative staff struck fear into some of the most powerful and most corrupt figures in America. In fact, folks in Washington would quip that under Carl's leadership, the letters "PSI" had a completely different meaning for people: They stood for "pretty scary investigations."

Carl used his chairmanship to stand up for everyday folks—the Michiganders and Americans—who were working hard every day to pay their bills and play by the rules. He was furious when there were people who took advantage of hard-working Americans, and there were companies who were making millions and even billions of dollars cheating on their taxes and hurting average taxpayers.

Over the course of his tenure as chair, he took on the corrupt, the wrongdoers, and the bullies who no one wanted to stand up to, including major banks, the mob, and even ruthless dictators.

He brought a studious focus to his work, reviewing thousands, and sometimes even tens of thousands, of pages of documents so that he would know every single detail in that investigation. His investigative staff recounted that when he was preparing for a flight to Hong Kong, he asked for a binder full of documents related to the latest investigation to review on the plane. His staff put together 1,500 pages of documents for him to read on that flight. When he landed in Hong Kong, he called and asked his staff to send the next batch. He had already made his way through those 1,500 pages, and he wanted to see more.

In every investigation he was tough but scrupulously fair. He was disciplined and laser-focused on addressing injustices. And he was dedicated to seeing a fight through to the end, even if it took years.

Over the years, he tackled money laundering, abusive offshore tax shelters, and executives and bankers who cooked the books, dodged taxes, and cost workers their savings, their pensions, and healthcare. One of his greatest legacies at PSI was his work to hold bad actors in the Federal sector accountable for their abuses.

In fact, after seeing unfair charges on his own credit card and hearing similar stories from his constituents, he launched an investigation into predatory credit practices, including charging interest on debt that was already paid, hiking interest rates even when bills were paid on time, and manipulating charges to try to secure additional fees.

After a series of tough oversight hearings and a legislative process that spanned years, Carl's work became a central part of the Credit CARD Act of 2009, which prohibited abuse of credit card practices and helped more than 100 million Americans. He even cast his 11,000th vote during the process of getting that bill passed.

Whether he was taking on Enron or Goldman Sachs or exposing the corruption of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, Carl was focused on holding the bad guys accountable and protecting the American people from their misconduct.

And despite serving at a time when Congress was growing increasingly partisan, he managed to bridge the divide. His staunchest conservative colleagues knew that if Carl gave them his word, they could count on it 100 percent. Whether he was working with Senator Coburn or Senator COLLINS, Carl was able to cooperatively work with his Republican colleagues, setting an iconic example for how to conduct bipartisan oversight that my own committee staff today still strives to follow.

Carl carried that same partisan principle to his role as chairman of the

Armed Services Committee, a role that he served in for 18 years. Whether he was working alongside the late Senator John Warner or the late Senator John McCain, Carl found bipartisan, commonsense ways to support our Nation's servicemembers and combat waste and fraud within the Department of Defense, and he worked tirelessly to strengthen national security and to keep our Nation safe.

Even though Carl took on such high profile, nationally important roles, he never forgot his roots and the lessons he learned about listening to your community during his time as a Detroit city councilman. He was a powerful advocate for all of Michigan, but especially for his hometown of Detroit.

I distinctly remember his determination as our Michigan congressional delegation fought to rescue Michigan's auto industry when it was on the brink of total collapse. As our senior Senator at the time, Carl led our delegation with quiet but steady resolve. At a time when so much was on the line for Michigan, Carl helped fight for General Motors and Chrysler, which was headquartered in my district, and to save the jobs of Michigan autoworkers and everyone who depended on them.

Carl was a champion for Michigan's auto industry and a true believer in the Motor City's ability to lead in vehicle innovation. He was such a believer in the future of Detroit's auto industry that he even bought one of Chevrolet's first electric vehicles, the Chevy Volt.

As a former taxi driver in his youth, Carl loved driving himself around, even if his erratic and aggressive driving style startled and sometimes scared his staff. And although Carl was ready to put his own money behind the future of Detroit, Capitol Hill wasn't quite so ready for electric vehicles. Without readily accessible charging stations on the Hill, Carl actually ran an extension cord out of his window of his Russell Office Building to recharge his car's battery.

He also fought relentlessly to build public transportation in Detroit. He had a vision of light rail that would transport people through downtown Detroit, and when he believed in something, he wouldn't take no for an answer, even when the administration of his own party rejected requests to fund the Detroit rail project.

I recall vividly a meeting between Carl, the Detroit representatives, and then-Transportation Secretary LaHood, and in classic Carl Levin style, he peered over the rims of his glasses, held a fistful of papers, and shook them at the Secretary's direction as he railed about how we had angels in Detroit who were willing to invest in this project, but we need the public sector to support it to get across the finish line.

His arguments were persuasive, and, today, you can ride the QLINE down Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit because Carl Levin was so determined to make it a reality.

President Barack Obama captured Carl's legacy perfectly when he said, upon Carl's retirement, that "if you've ever worn the uniform, worked a shift on an assembly line or sacrificed to make ends meet, then you had a voice and a vote in Sen. Carl Levin."

But perhaps Carl's greatest legacy is the example he set for all of us. Carl's colleagues, his staff, and his constituents all agree that one of his most powerful traits was his integrity. He had strong values and a moral compass that always pointed north. Even years after he retired, as I traveled around Michigan, folks still tell me how much they respected Carl. They knew that even if they didn't agree with him, he was thoughtful and he was considerate. And they would tell me that while they may not always agree with Carl's votes, they respected his decision making, and they trusted what he was doing and thought was best for Michigan and the country.

Those same principles inspired such strong loyalty in his staff that he became known for having staff members who worked for him for decades. Carl's fearlessness, thoughtfulness, and independence marked the epitome of what it means to be a public servant. He followed his conscience, and he always fought to do what was best for his home State and for his country.

Carl's principled leadership, his dedication for finding common ground, his relentless pursuit of the truth, and his constant focus on ensuring that our country works for every American should serve as a model for all of us.

I am forever grateful to Carl for his leadership, his mentorship, and for his example. I will always remember the advice he gave me on election night, after I was declared the winner. He pulled me aside and said: Just remember, Gary, in the Senate there will be people who will try to pull you in all sorts of directions, but never forget where you came from, never forget who you are, and always work to bring people together, despite the partisanship and polarization around you.

We live in tough times, but he reminded me that people back home in Michigan are expecting me to get things done and deliver results. It is advice that guides me every day.

Carl truly represented the best of public service. He did his homework and knew the issues inside and out. He focused on doing what was right for Michigan and for our country. He never had an alternative agenda. He didn't chase front-page headlines or the cameras. He had no desire to be a political celebrity. He just wanted to get things done.

Carl's light in this world will be sorely missed, but the best thing we can do to honor his memory is to live by the same principles, integrity, and kindness that drove his leadership and public service for five decades. Carl loved doing his job, and he did it with boundless energy. Whether it was greeting his constituents on the street or taking

on some of the toughest issues in Washington, everyone was always trying to keep up with Carl.

If we could all bring just a fraction of his dedication, his integrity, and his intellect to our own worlds, Washington would surely be a much better place. May his memory be a blessing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, first let me thank Senator STABENOW and Senator PETERS for bringing us together to recognize an extraordinary gentleman, an extraordinary friend, and, for me, an extraordinary mentor, Senator Carl Levin.

I want to begin by offering my deepest sympathies to Carl's family, his wife Barbara, their wonderful daughters and grandchildren, his brother Sandy, and his nephew Congressman ANDY LEVIN. Those who knew him knew that Carl was, above all else, a loving father, a devoted husband, and a profoundly compassionate man. Today, we mourn with the entire Levin family.

I would like to take just a few minutes to reflect on his remarkable life and legacy. Carl served 36 years in the U.S. Senate and made every single day count. He was a gentleman and a statesman, a true champion for Michigan, for working families, for justice, and especially for the men and women of the U.S. military. Throughout his long and wide-ranging career, he carried with him a constant, enduring commitment to service.

From his earliest days growing up in Detroit, Carl understood what service meant. He worked his way up as an auto factory worker and taxi driver to get to law school and then to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, where he dedicated his early career to service as a public defender. From there, he committed himself even further to the people of Detroit, serving 8 years on the city council and fighting constantly to advance the civil rights of his constituents.

His 3½ decades in the Senate truly defined his commitment to service, and his accomplishments are monumental. While Carl is particularly associated with national defense, as the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, he was one of the most productive, effective congressional investigators and legislators of his era—or any era. Wielding his gavel on the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations with great clout and distinction, he was relentless in going after waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption whenever and wherever he saw it.

He didn't shy from tough issues. He worked tirelessly to expose major corporate tax avoidance and evasion, knowing that it was unfair for working men and women to pay their share while corporations found loopholes to pay nothing.

Carl changed the very way our government worked, using his legislative

powers, his backbone, and his brain to take on the most powerful institutions in America on behalf of not just the little guy but a healthier republic.

Serving alongside Carl Levin on the Armed Services Committee was one of the greatest privileges of my life. We liked to joke that we were friends and we traveled together so much because I made Carl feel tall and he made me feel like the most elegant dresser in the United States of America.

I was always intrigued during our 11 trips overseas together—mostly to battlegrounds—when I would try to pack light, my experience in the military having suggested that. Carl would show up with a little bag—just a little black bag. And I would think, "How could he get through these 5, 6, 7 days of trips with just that?" Then I discovered the answer. We would have a meeting with a Prime Minister, for example, and he would have his coat and his tie and his white shirt on and his slacks. And then he would get ready to go to the field. He would just take his coat off or undo his tie, roll up his sleeves, and head out to the field. Then we would come back to have another meeting, and he would put his tie back on. It was the Carl Levin method. And as much as I tried to emulate it, I could not.

He was one of the most incredibly genuine and kind individuals you would ever meet.

When he took on his duties on the Armed Services Committee, he understood that national security is not a partisan issue, and he maintained a spirit of bipartisanship that continues to motivate all of us.

He also understood that national security requires more than just defense. So he was an active supporter of diplomacy and international organizations.

Throughout his life, Senator Levin was a steadying force in turbulent times in global affairs. He was a staunch advocate for NATO, recognizing that our national power is enhanced by strong alliances with other democracies. He also lent crucial support to the START Treaty between the United States and Russia, limiting and reducing the number of nuclear weapons on this planet. And he later supported the Nunn-Lugar legislation that removed many unsecured nuclear weapons after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

But, most profoundly, Carl always recognized that the dedication and sacrifice of our servicemembers is fundamental to our military security. I feel that in every critical decision he made, he viewed it through the eyes of those young soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines on the ground—what would his decisions mean to them? That is why he traveled to countless outposts and ships to see for himself the needs of our men and women in uniform and to thank our troops personally for their service. And I was privileged to travel with him many, many times and to witness his concern for those who served.

At this moment, my mind is awash with memories and images; for example, in 1997, standing with Carl before a crowd of 50,000 pro-democratic Serbians in Belgrade, calling for a democracy to replace the dictator, Milosevic. It was a moving moment. In 2003, visiting our troops in Iraq—one of the first codels to enter Iraq—to find out for ourselves what was happening; what the troops needed; what we could do to protect them and give them the tools to do their job; and in 2009, crowded together, sitting on the floor on carpets with Afghan leaders in a small village, trying to determine a path forward. Carl always led by example and with decency and integrity.

Later this summer, it will be the honor of my life to speak at the commissioning of the U.S. Navy's newest warship, the USS Carl M. Levin. It is a great and formidable ship, bearing the name of a great and formidable man. I wish more than anything that Carl could be there to witness the tremendous honor for his namesake ship's commissioning. But Carl always did prefer to avoid the spotlight and the fanfare, and, I think, perhaps he will be smiling even wider as he looks from above at the christening of that ship.

Carl's life was defined by service, and we should all be grateful to be part of the legacy that he created in this very Chamber. His loss is immeasurable, but I am grateful for his lifetime of contributions to the people of Michigan and the people of our Nation.

We can best honor Senator Levin by carrying out his ideals and example in what we do here and what we do for the Nation, and, particularly, what we do for the brave young men and women who serve this Nation.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I rise today to add my voice to my colleagues in remembering and paying our respects to our dear friend and former colleague Senator Carl Levin, whom we sadly lost last night.

My colleagues have been sharing their stories and their experiences of this incredible human being, this amazing Senator, and I want to share one of my own, a story of how he made an impact on my life and my approach to being a Senator.

It was back in 2009, when we had an enormous collapse of our economic system. I came here as a freshman Senator, and we were working to say what happened and how can we prevent this from happening again. A lot of what happened was enormously leveraged bets made in the Wall Street casino. A staff member of mine kept saying, you have got to read this essay by Chairman Volcker about how we take and shut down this Wall Street casino and how it puts our entire economy at risk and will do so again in the future again if we don't act.

After two or three times that my team member had approached me on

this, I put out an email to all of the Senators and said: Here is the challenge that is presented, and here is what we need to do to protect the future economy. Would anyone join me in undertaking to establish this Volcker rule to shut down the Wall Street casino?

The next day, I came to the floor of the Senate, and Carl Levin comes up to me. And he says: About your email from yesterday, about your email, I want to join you in that project.

He knew a lot about this issue, and he had staff members who knew a lot about this issue. Then he went on to say: And you may think because you are new and I have been here for a while that I am going to sweep in and take this over. He said: But I want to tell you, I am not going to do that. I don't want to do that. I want to work in full partnership with you, together.

And that is what it became, this full partnership: our team members working closely together, Carl and I working closely together, no one leading, if you will, or, to put it differently, leading together. And it had many, many chapters in this effort.

It was not an easy path to say the big banks needed to change how they operate. But what struck me in how he conducted himself was he expressed not egoism but altruism. He didn't focus on what he should do to advance himself politically; he wanted to know what we can do to serve the best interests of this Nation, not grandstanding but problem-solving to make the United States of America work better for everyone. And so we proceeded.

During the debate on Dodd-Frank, we had an opportunity to put forward an amendment to establish the Volcker rule. Colleagues across the aisle were none too happy about that, and it shut down the Senate for a full day. So Carl and I kept working during that day to say: No, this should be debated. This should be voted on. But eventually, our second-degree amendment died when the first-degree amendment was taken down. But our team members had worked through the night to make it a germane amendment so it would have survived had that not taken place.

So then we went, in partnership, over to speak with Mr. Frank, Congressman Frank on the House side. And Congressman Frank joined in the battle. And we kept pushing, and eventually, in conference, the Volcker rule was brought to life.

And then we started partnering and trying to prevent the rulemaking from tearing it down. And Carl would call me up and say: Here is what is happening. What are we going to do? And we would write a letter and we would call the regulators and we would rally our fellow Senators. He just kept at it. Like a dog with a bone, he was not going to let go. He was tenacious, saying: This matters. Every piece of it matters. We are going to get this done.

So when we think about the fact that that Wall Street casino no longer

threatens the American economy because it no longer operates as it did, well, we have Senator Carl Levin to thank for that.

There is so much more he did here. Colleagues have been speaking to other chapters of his work, but this was the chapter I was involved in. I think it said so much about who he was. His policy expertise, his humble approach to the fight, his willingness to take on powerful actors, that is truly what it is to be a public servant.

I wish Carl were here so we could have him hear these stories from us directly. I am thinking now about his colleagues representing Michigan who have followed in his footsteps. They are here: DEBBIE STABENOW, GARY PETERS. I know they are inspired by the example he set.

A couple of years ago, I had a chance to debate in Michigan and called up Carl so we could get together for dinner, together with his wife Barbara. And, boy, he was just interested in every aspect of what we were doing here and how we were, hopefully, making the Senate work better.

And just not so long ago, he wrote an op-ed about how to make the Senate work better by enabling the minority to slow things down, to have leverage but keep this body from being paralyzed. So he continued to think and to engage right up to his final days.

So, Barbara, we are thinking about you. We are holding you and your family in the light, and we are doing so with such appreciation of the life and work of Carl Levin.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I, of course, join my colleagues in their fond words for Carl Levin.

He was a mentor to me, like so many. And I am looking forward to speaking about him as well as my good friend Senator Enzi, whom we also tragically lost this past week, in the coming days.

But, today, I am focused on another topic, and that is the Olympics.

TRIBUTE TO SUNISA LEE

Madam President, I rise today to congratulate and honor Minnesota's own Sunisa Lee, who won the gold medal in the women's all-around gymnastics event at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

I got up, like many Minnesotans, at 5 in the morning to watch this live, and it was a sight to behold.

Suni hails from St. Paul. The youngest member of the U.S. women's gymnastics team at just 18, she has been competing on the national and international stages since 2015. She is now officially the best women's gymnast in the world.

Suni Lee's journey is a remarkable one. She faced incredible challenges to compete on the world's stage, including training through the coronavirus pandemic, breaking her foot, and sadly experiencing tragedies within her family

when she lost two relatives to COVID and when a 2019 accident left her father paralyzed.

On Thursday, July 29, 2021, she led the American team's quest for gold in the women's all-around gymnastics event after the legendary Simone Biles withdrew. But Simone Biles stayed and was there for her teammate and was there in the stands. But with the pressure of the world upon her, Suni Lee, who never thought she would be leading that team, who never thought that this honor would be hers, gave the performance of her life.

Suni's difficult and daring uneven bars routine sealed her victory. The routine set a 6.8 difficulty mark and earned a score of 15.3, tied for the highest score by any gymnast in the competition. She defended the American title in the women's all-around gymnastics event, marking the fifth consecutive Olympic win for an American.

She also contributed to the U.S. women's gymnastics team's silver medal performance in the team competition. She is a teamplayer and a role model for young men and women around the Nation.

Suni's entire family contributed to her success. And for many of us who watched, we saw them all in that room, cheering her on.

Her family, back in time, fled terror and violence in their native country of Laos to create a better life for their children. Her father John Lee built Suni a wooden balance beam in their backyard when she was a child because they could not afford to buy one.

As she said after her championship performance, "We both worked for this. [My father] sacrificed everything to put me in gymnastics."

Suni Lee represented the best of America on the world stage.

Minnesota, as my colleague TINA SMITH will share with you soon, is home to more than 81,000 Hmong Americans, the largest urban concentration in the United States. Suni's family, like many, arrived in America in the aftermath of the Vietnam war seeking a better life.

Suni is the first Hmong American to make the U.S. Olympic team and the first to win an Olympic Gold Medal. She is the first Asian American to win the women's all-around gymnastics competition. Her accomplishments represent the resiliency of her community and are an inspiration to Hmong Americans and all of us. They also represent her own personal resilience to be able to shine in that moment with such grace under pressure. Truly, she has captured the hearts of Minnesotans and people around the world.

Suni Lee's win is a remarkable achievement. I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate her; her coach, Jess Graba; her parents, John Lee and Yeev Thoj; and her entire extended family. I wish her continued success throughout her gymnastics career and beyond, and we can't wait to welcome her home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Madam President, I am just delighted to be here today on the floor of the U.S. Senate with my colleague Senator KLOBUCHAR to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Sunisa Lee of St. Paul, MN, who won Olympic Gold in the individual all-around event in women's gymnastics in Tokyo this week.

Suni gave a historic performance while under immense personal pressure and under the difficult circumstances that have defined the 2021 Olympic Games. But she stepped up, and she gave an astounding performance to bring home gold, continuing the American tradition of excellence in women's gymnastics. Her routine on the uneven bars, as Senator KLOBUCHAR said, one of the most difficult ever attempted in women's gymnastics, was just stunning.

On her way to Olympic Gold, Suni faced really tremendous obstacles. After beginning her gymnastics training at age 6, Suni showed incredible dedication, focus, and drive to reach the elite levels of her sport despite injuries and personal challenges.

In 2019, her father was paralyzed in an accident but continued supporting his daughter's gymnastics career. And while continuing her training during the coronavirus pandemic, Suni suffered a broken foot, an Achilles tendon injury, and the tragic loss of her aunt and uncle to coronavirus.

While pandemic precautions meant there were no spectators to cheer her on in Tokyo, Suni's family, friends, community members, and gymnastics fans all over the country got together to cheer her on from afar with watch parties held in her honor. The videos of these gatherings show the incredible shared joy and pride in her incredible accomplishment, and I am sure that she could feel all that love and support as she competed in Tokyo.

Not only is Suni the youngest member of the U.S. women's Olympic gymnastics team, but she is also the first Hmong American on the U.S. Olympic team and now is the first Asian American to be the Olympic women's all-around champion.

Her leadership and sportsmanship are an inspiration, and Minnesota is so proud to call her one of our own. In fact, Minnesota's Governor, Tim Walz, and St. Paul's mayor, Melvin Carter, have announced that today, Friday, July 30, 2021, is "Sunisa Lee Day." It is too bad that Ms. KLOBUCHAR and I can't be there to help them celebrate in St. Paul.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate those who contributed to Suni's victory: her parents, John Lee and Yeev Thoj, and her coach, Jess Graba. After Suni won her gold, she reminded us all that no one achieves success alone as she said, "This is my family's medal, my medal. My coach's medal."

Madam President, in this moment, I also would like to take an opportunity to acknowledge the awe-inspiring leadership of Simone Biles. Her choice to withdraw from the all-around event in order to protect her health and safety was courageous and is an important reminder that mental health is an essential part of our overall well-being.

In addition to being the greatest of all time, Simone's powerful advocacy and her unwavering support for Suni and the rest of her team show that she is also a great team player and an activist.

Every Olympic medal represents untold hours of hard work and struggle and resilience, and Suni Lee's all-around gold is no exception.

So congratulations to Suni. We are all so proud of you. Thank you for your courage, your dedication, and your inspiration to all of us everywhere in this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, with the Presiding Officer's help, and the help of 48 others—48 others in this body, we provided back in March an amendment; and then in final passage, we provided the biggest tax cut—the largest tax cut for working families ever.

It is called the Child Tax Credit. It has been several years in the making. We didn't make so much progress the last 4 years, but an election and a new President, coupled with a new U.S. Senate, has made all the difference in the world.

In my State, 2.4 million children are eligible. And 2.1 million of those—I will get to that in a moment; we haven't reached everybody yet. But 2.1 million saw last week in the mail—in their mailbox or direct deposits in their bank accounts—2.1 million children were the beneficiary of \$250 or \$300 last week.

So every month—July 15, coming up August 15, September 15, October 15, children from zero to 5, their parents will get \$300 each of those months. If their children are 6 to 17, those families will get \$250 per child. Almost every child—92 percent of children in Ohio, roughly the same; 9 out of 10 in the State of Wisconsin, the Presiding Officer's State, will be getting—their families will be getting checks in the mail—these checks in the mail.

In sort of a macro big way, we know this does a number of things. First of all, it drops the poverty rate among America's children by almost 50 percent. Imagine that. One bill we do drops the poverty rate among children in this country by 50 percent, something government has never been able to do. And because of this Child Tax Credit, the largest tax cut for working families in American history, it will make a huge difference.

In another macro sort of way, the people of Wisconsin and Ohio and other

States will benefit because we are injecting this kind of money. In Ohio last week, \$550 million was sent to the State from the Federal Government to these children, to these families. And for most of these families—the wealthiest people don't get this—it is 90 percent; 9 out of 10 families do, but they have children.

This money goes directly into these communities. They are going to be spending this money at the local grocery store, the local hardware store, to fix their car so they don't miss work, and maybe take their kid once in a while to a restaurant. So the money is not going to be put in a Swiss bank account. It will be spent in local communities, making a difference. That is sort of the big picture.

The joy of working on this bill and starting—I started working on this in 2013, joined by MICHAEL BENNET and Senator BOOKER, and then, since he came, Senator WARNOCK and Senator BALDWIN and Senator OSSOFF have been helpful and Senator WYDEN, the chair of the Finance Committee. The joy of this is to see how this affects individual families' lives.

So a couple of weeks ago, before the checks were sent out, I did a series of roundtables in Defiance, in Findlay, in Ryan, in Cleveland, in Dayton, in Toledo, in—where else?—in Youngstown, and in Cincinnati, and I just asked families: What are you going to do with this money? Many families didn't know it was even coming; the word wasn't out yet. I just heard some interesting comments. But then after the checks were sent out, I also heard stories, and here is what this means to families:

One mother said: You know, for the first time, I can now send my son to camp for a week, to a summer camp—for the first time in her life.

A father said: You know, I am now going to be able to buy for my daughter—she loves fastpitch softball. She is really good. I am going to be able to buy her the equipment to do that.

A number of families said: We are now in a position where we can actually, without scrounging—so many American families can barely afford their rent. Twenty-five percent of American families pay half their income in rent. Think about that. One out of four renters pays half their income in rent. One thing goes wrong in their lives—their car breaks down—they can end up being evicted.

So what this \$300 per child or \$250 per child—for a lot of families, it just relieved the anxiety of the difficulty of putting together the money they need to pay their rent, because the last week of a month for many families is different from the first three because, the last week, they start making cuts and not spending as much money on food, all the things they have got to do to pay their rent. Look, this is going to alleviate—it is going to lift that burden off so many families.

Other families who are a little more affluent but still, you know, hanging

on to being middle class are now able, they told me, to put \$100 aside every month. Because of this child tax credit, because of the largest tax cut for working families ever, they are going to be able to put aside \$100 a month for their child to go to Ohio State or to Denison or to Cleveland State or to Sinclair Community College in Ohio.

So all the kinds of things—and you know, Madam President, I know you have, in Wisconsin, have thought about this. The best thing about this is, you know, it is not Senator BALDWIN or Senator SCHUMER or Senator MCCONNELL or President Biden—it is not them saying to a family: OK. Here is some money. Here is where you are going to spend it. We are going to help you with this. We are going to help you. It is trusting these families. This \$250 a month or \$300 a month these families get, they get this money, and they decide what is best for their family.

It is still, frankly, Madam President, inexplicable to me that everybody on this side of the aisle voted no, every single one of them. They had two chances. They voted no on an amendment on the bill, and then they voted no on the bill to give the largest tax cut for working families ever.

We all know around here—it is no secret—that this side of the aisle likes tax cuts; they just like them for rich people. But they always argue: You know, if we cut taxes on the rich, it will trickle down; it will help everybody. Well, there is kind of no evidence for that, but they keep doing it because they know that it plays really well with their rich contributors.

But this is what tax cuts are really about. The child tax credit puts money in people's pockets, it gives them the choice on how to spend those dollars on behalf of their families, and it helps the community because there is more money in the community. We know that, and we know that the best kind of infrastructure, the best way to build infrastructure in this country is to build a foundation for families.

I am for this bill that we are considering now: water, sewer, highways, bridges. I want to do that, but I want to build a foundation for families, too, not just the physical—a better highway system, a better water and sewer system—but I want to give families broadband. I want to give families a little bit of money like this does. I want to build and help families with housing because then that foundation—these families can launch their children into a more prosperous future, and that is, to me, what this is all about. That is why the child tax credit is the most important thing I have ever worked on in my career, and I think it is one of the most important things Congress has done in a quarter century.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. BROWN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The majority leader.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before I close the Senate, I want to inform the Senators where we are today.

First, I want to thank all of the Senators who voted to proceed today. The bipartisan group is still finalizing the text of their agreement, which will be the substitute amendment, with a non-partisan legislative counsel.

Once they are finished—this is a big job—the text will be reviewed, and then I will immediately offer the text of the bipartisan infrastructure agreement as the substitute amendment, making it the base bill, as I have promised. As soon as the bipartisan group finalizes the text of the substitute amendment and it becomes the base bill, we can start voting on amendments and make further progress on the bill over this weekend.

The Senate will resume session tomorrow at 11 a.m.

This is a really important bill, and I know all the parties want to make sure it is done right.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a morning of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFGHAN SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, nearly 20 years ago, the United States invaded Afghanistan to prevent that country from being exploited as a platform for terrorism and extremism. In doing so, the U.S. worked side-by-side with international and Afghan forces to remove the Taliban from power, facilitate democratic elections, build democratic institutions, and promote human rights throughout Afghanistan. Because of these efforts and the commitment and dedication of the Afghan people, the Afghanistan of 2021 is far different than the Afghanistan of 2001. And now that Afghanistan has made this progress, we must work with our Afghan partners to do everything in our power to preserve these gains and leave a stable country behind us. It is both a moral obligation and a national security priority that we do so.

As U.S. troops withdraw from Afghanistan, the safety and security of our Afghan allies who put their lives on the line to help our servicemembers and diplomats must be a top priority. This is about fulfilling a sacred promise that we made to those who served the U.S.-led mission in Afghanistan. It is a service that many Afghans have already paid for with their lives. Like U.S. personnel, our Afghan partners

died on the battlefield alongside Americans. But unlike our own servicemembers, when the Afghans went home, they were not safe from danger.

Earlier this year, National Public Radio shared the story of “Mohammad” and his family. “Mohammad” is not his name, but a pseudonym used because of the threats made upon him and his family by the Taliban. Mohammad was an interpreter who served his country and the U.S.-led mission in Afghanistan. For this, the Taliban threatened him and his family. They labeled him a traitor and forced him to seek safety in the United States through the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program. Mohammad was murdered by the Taliban in January, shortly after his visa to the U.S. was approved—10 years after he applied. Last month, his family finally arrived in the United States—to safety—but they did so without Mohammad. His wife and six children are here without their father, who gave his life in service to his country and the U.S. mission.

Unfortunately, Mohammad’s story is not unique. The Taliban has made their intentions clear. They call in the dead of the night and leave notes affixed to houses: “We know who you are and will kill you.”

The Taliban’s brutality against vulnerable populations like our Afghan allies has increased over the last several months, but as the U.S. withdrawal nears completion, conditions on the ground have become all the more dangerous. If the United States does not act quickly to uphold its promise to these Afghans, our opportunity to get our partners to safety will pass us by. U.S. action must start with bolstering the program that was supposed to protect Mohammad, the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa—SIV—program, and include a secure and efficient evacuation of our partners by the Biden administration.

There has long been bipartisan support for the Afghan SIV program in Congress, which I originally championed with the late Senator John McCain. John personally understood the need to fulfill our moral obligations to our partners and the strategic value in taking care of our allies. His example of bipartisan leadership continues today, and it has served the SIV program well: There is bipartisan, bicameral determination to take action. That is why Senators ERNST, DURBIN, WICKER, and I introduced the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2021 and why I am pleased that Congress has taken decisive action to pass this language with the supplemental budget appropriations bill. President Biden signed the bill into law today. These actions provide additional visas and make urgently needed process fixes to the program, which maintains broad bipartisan support across the political spectrum. This is necessary to help the U.S. fulfill its obligation to our Afghan partners, not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because of

what it means for U.S. credibility in future engagements. We must send a strong message to our current and future allies: If you stand by our side on the battlefield, we will have your back.

However, these improvements to the process are just the first step in ensuring our Afghan allies do not suffer for their service. The Biden administration must now take immediate steps to implement this legislation and provide for the safety of Afghan SIV applicants. Congress has demonstrated that there is bipartisan support for immediate action to protect and support our Afghan SIV applicants and friends. Our allies around the world are watching.

There is no easy answer on Afghanistan. But one thing is clear: We cannot leave our Afghan allies behind. With this legislation now law, we must concentrate all U.S. efforts on supporting and protecting those who worked with the U.S. Government, as well as those whose work is diametrically opposed to the views of the Taliban, such as women’s equality advocates. To not do so is to make a grave moral and security mistake.

I look forward to continuing to work with the administration and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in support of our friends in Afghanistan.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-53, concerning the Army’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Thailand for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$83.5 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-53

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Thailand.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$71.5 million.

Other \$12.0 million.

Total \$83.5 million.

Funding Source: National Funds

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Three Hundred (300) Javelin FGM-148 Missiles.

Non-MDE: Also included are Enhanced Producibility Basic Skills Trainers; missile simulation rounds; Security Assistance Management Directorate (SAMD) Technical Assistance; Tactical Aviation and Ground Munitions (TAGM) Project Office Technical Assistance; contractor lifecycle support; spares manuals; batteries/chargers; gunner training; ammunition officer training; OCONUS Modified Level 2 Maintenance Training; System Inspection and Check Out (SICO); and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (TH-B-WHL, TH-B-WHI).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Articles or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 30, 2021.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Thailand—Javelin Missiles

The Government of Thailand has requested to buy three hundred (300) Javelin FGM-148 Missiles; and fifty (50) Javelin Command Launch Units (CLU). Also included are Enhanced Producibility Basic Skills Trainers; missile simulation rounds; Security Assistance Management Directorate (SAMD) Technical Assistance; Tactical Aviation and Ground Munitions (TAGM) Project Office Technical Assistance; contractor lifecycle support; spares manuals; batteries/chargers; gunner training; ammunition officer training; OCONUS Modified Level 2 Maintenance Training; System Inspection and Check Out (SICO); and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost is \$83.5 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally in Southeast Asia. The Javelin Weapon System will replace the obsolete 106mm Recoilless Rifles that the Royal Thai Army (RTA) acquired as part of the Military Assistance Program (MAP) from the Vietnam era. This proposed sale will allow the RTA to modernize their light anti-tank capability and maintain its current force posture, as well as enhance interoperability with the U.S. during operations and training exercises. Thailand is a strategic partner committed to contributing to regional security.

The proposed sale will improve Thailand’s capability to meet current and future threats by improving Thailand’s long-term defense capacity to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Thailand will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be Raytheon/Lockheed Martin Javelin Joint Venture of Orlando, Florida, and Tucson, Arizona. Offsets have not been included. Any offset agreements will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Thailand.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-53

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Javelin Weapon System is a medium-range, man portable, shoulder-launched, fire and forget, anti-tank system for infantry, scouts, and combat engineers. It may also be mounted on a variety of platforms including vehicles, aircraft and watercraft. The system weighs 49.5 pounds and has a maximum range in excess of 2,500 meters. The system is highly lethal against tanks and other systems with conventional and reactive armors. The system possesses a secondary capability against bunkers.

2. Javelin's key technical feature is the use of fire-and-forget technology, which allows the gunner to fire and immediately relocate or take cover. Additional special features are the top attack and/or direct fire modes, an advanced tandem warhead and imaging infrared seeker, target lock-on before launch, and soft launch from enclosures or covered fighting positions. The Javelin missile also has a minimum smoke motor, thus decreasing its detection on the battlefield.

3. The Javelin Weapon System is comprised of two major tactical components, which are a reusable Command Launch Unit (CLU) and a round contained in a disposable launch tube assembly. The CLU incorporates an integrated day-night sight that provides a target engagement capability in adverse weather and countermeasure environments. The CLU may also be used in a stand-alone mode for battlefield surveillance and target detection. The CLU's thermal sight is a second generation Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) sensor. To facilitate initial loading and subsequent updating of software, all on-board missile software is uploaded via the CLU after mating and prior to launch.

4. The missile is autonomously guided to the target using an imaging infrared seeker and adaptive correlation tracking algorithms. This allows the gunner to take cover or reload and engage another target after firing a missile. The missile has an advanced tandem warhead and can be used in either the top attack or direct fire modes (for target undercover). An onboard flight computer guides the missile to the selected target.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware or software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Thailand can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Thailand.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-52, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Israel for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.4 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-52

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Israel

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$2.4 billion.

Other \$1.0 billion.

TOTAL \$3.4 billion.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing (FMF)

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to Eighteen (18) CH-53K Heavy Lift Helicopters.

Up to Sixty (60) T408-GE-400 Engines (54 installed, 6 spares).

Up to Thirty-six (36) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM).

Non-MDE: Also included is communication equipment; GAU-21 .50 caliber Machine Guns; Mission Planning System; facilities study, design and construction; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; aircrew and maintenance training; U.S. Govern-

ment and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (IS-P-SCN)

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 30, 2021

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Israel—CH-53K Heavy Lift Helicopters with Support

The Government of Israel has requested to buy up to eighteen (18) CH-53K Heavy Lift Helicopters; up to sixty (60) T408-GE-400 Engines (54 installed, 6 spares); and up to thirty-six (36) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM). Also included is communication equipment; GAU-21 .50 caliber Machine Guns; Mission Planning System; facilities study, design and construction; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; aircrew and maintenance training; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$3.4 billion.

The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives.

The proposed sale will improve the Israeli Air Force's capability to transport armored vehicles, personnel, and equipment to support distributed operations deep inland from a sea-based center of operations. Israel will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense. Israel will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be Lockheed Martin Global, Inc., Shelton, Connecticut; and General Electric Company, Lynn, Massachusetts. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreements will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips by U.S. Government and contractor representatives to participate in program and technical reviews. It will also require approximately four (4) contractor support representatives to reside in country for a period of three (3) years to support this program.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-52

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The CH-53K Heavy Lift Helicopter focuses primarily on the transport of armored vehicles, personnel, and equipment to support distributed operations deep inland from a sea-based center of operations. The CH-53K

carries several sensors and data links to enhance its ability to operate in hostile environments and in coordination with group forces. The aircraft is night vision compatible. The sensitive technologies include:

a. Communications security devices contain sensitive encryption algorithms and keying material. The purchasing country has previously been released and utilizes COMSEC devices in accordance with set procedures and without issue.

b. Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) (KIV-78) contains embedded security devices containing sensitive encryption algorithms and keying material. The purchasing country will utilize COMSEC devices in accordance with set procedures.

c. GPS PPS/SAASM/MGUE/ADAP—Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning Service (PPS) provides space-based Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) signals that have reliable location and time information in all weather, at all times, and anywhere on or near the earth when and where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites. The Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) and Modernized GPS User Equipment (MGUE) are used as military embedded GPS receivers (EGRs) to provide for decryption and use of the GPS PPS by the Embedded GPS/Inertial Navigation System (EGI). In addition, the Advanced Digital Antenna Production (ADAP) GPS anti-jam protection system provides electronic protection from enemy countermeasures to disrupt and jam GPS signals. The combination of the EGI and the ADAP provide for robust positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) capability.

2. All the mission data, including sensitive parameters, is loaded from an off board station before each flight and does not stay with the aircraft after electrical power has been removed. Sensitive technologies are protected as defined in the program protection and anti-tamper plans.

3. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware or software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that Israel can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Israel.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE DESIGNATION AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS ALL FUNDING SO DESIGNATED BY THE CONGRESS IN THE EMERGENCY SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021, PURSUANT TO SECTION 251 (B)(2)(A) OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985, FOR THE ENCLOSED LIST OF ACCOUNTS—PM 13

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 606 of the Emergency Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (H.R. 3237; the "Act"), I hereby designate as emergency requirements all funding so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 30, 2021.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2278. An act to designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail Route, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2497. An act to establish the Amache National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a Unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4300. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to make free National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes available to members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3237. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2497. An act to establish the Amache National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a Unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4300. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to make free National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes available to members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1575. A communication from the Supervisory Regulations Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska - 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Subsistence Taking of Fish Regulations" (RIN1018-BE36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1576. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a legislative proposal relative to amending the Safe Drinking Water Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1577. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Integrated Plans to Comply with the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1578. A communication from the Biologist of the Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Interior Least Tern From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BC11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1579. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ocean Dumping; Modification of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site Offshore Port Everglades, Florida" (FRL No. 8737-01-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1580. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Tennessee; Knoxville Area Limited Maintenance Plan for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS" (FRL No. 8761-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1581. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District; Graphic Arts and Printing Operations" (FRL No. 8713-02-R9) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on July 22, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1582. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of the Stratospheric Ozone: Motor Vehicle Air Conditioning System Servicing" ((RIN2060-A075) (FRL No. 10014-63-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1583. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "South Carolina: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 10014-89-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1584. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of Michigan Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class II Program; Primacy Approval" ((RIN2040-ZA35) (FRL No. 10018-31-OW)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1585. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Removal of Control of Emissions from Solvent Cleanup Operations" (FRL No. 10021-40-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1586. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Designations for the 2010 Primary Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) National Ambient Air Quality Standard - Round 4" ((RIN2060-AU61) (FRL No. 10018-96-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1587. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delay of Effective Date of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Lead and Copper Rule Revisions" ((RIN2040-AF15) (FRL No. 10020-99-OW)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1588. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Aluminum Aquatic Life Criteria Applicable to Oregon" ((RIN2040-AF70) (FRL No. 10019-00-OW)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1589. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Improvements for Heavy-Duty En-

gine and Vehicle Test Procedures, and other Technical Amendments" ((RIN2060-AU62) (FRL No. 10018-52-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1590. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Revoked 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Areas that Attained by the Attainment Date" ((RIN2060-AU54) (FRL No. 10024-17-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1591. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; Subpart J Monitoring Requirements" ((RIN2050-AH16) (FRL No. 10025-88-OLEM)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1592. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health and Safety Data Reporting; Addition of 20 High-Priority Substances and 30 Organohalogen Flame Retardants" ((RIN2070-AB11) (FRL No. 10020-38)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1593. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Eastern Kern; 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements" (FRL No. 10025-14-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1594. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Montana; Butte PM₁₀ Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request" (FRL No. 10025-27-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1595. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Texas; Clean Air Act Requirements for Emissions Inventories for Nonattainment Areas for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 10024-83-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1596. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Safety Evaluation for Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Program Topical Report (BWRVIP-329), 'Updated Probabilistic Fracture Mechanics Analyses for BWR [Boiling Water Reactors] RPV [Reactor Pressure Vessel] Welds to Address Extended Operations'" received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on July 15, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2297. A bill to improve global health, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2571. A bill to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the soldiers who died on Flying Tiger Flight 739 on March 16, 1962; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2572. A bill to require online platforms to provide a mechanism for the deletion of user accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 2573. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to maintain the classification of certain airports for fiscal years 2022 and 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2574. A bill to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect students from racial hostility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2575. A bill to help individuals receiving disability insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act obtain rehabilitative services and return to the workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2576. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a program to allow qualified group practices to furnish certain items and services at qualified skilled nursing facilities to individuals entitled to benefits under part A and enrolled under part B of the Medicare program to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2577. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify the treatment of authentic Alaska Native articles of handicraft containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 332. A resolution honoring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the 75th anniversary of its establishment and expressing deep gratitude on behalf of the people of the United States to the scientists, disease detectives, career civil servants, and support staff at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for their dedication to protecting the health, safety, and security of the United States and to strengthening public health in the United States and abroad; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAMHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 333. A resolution relating to the death of the Honorable Carl Levin, former Senator for the State of Michigan; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 864

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 968

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to prohibit the United States Armed Forces from promoting anti-American and racist theories.

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 968, *supra*.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 976, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1061

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1061, a bill to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 1664

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1664, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for disability compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 1684

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1684, a bill to strengthen the ability of the Federal Home Loan Bank system to provide critical financing to address the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and to meet the short- and long-term housing and community economic development needs of low-income communities, including Tribal communities, and for other purposes.

S. 2300

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2300, a bill to direct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant program to help revitalize certain localities, and for other purposes.

S. 2346

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2346, a bill to codify Executive Order 13950 (relating to combating race and sex stereotyping), and for other purposes.

S. 2429

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2429, a bill to amend chapter 38 of title 31, United States Code, relating to civil remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 2536

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2536, a bill to require the Government Accountability Office to submit a report on the public health mitigation messaging and guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

S. 2550

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2550, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled.

S. 2561

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2561, a bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide that a land resource management plan or land use plan approved, amended, or revised under those Acts shall not be considered to be a continuing Federal agency action or constitute a discretionary Federal involvement or control for a distinct Federal purpose, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 310

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 310, a resolution expressing solidarity with Cuban citizens demonstrating peacefully for fundamental freedoms, condemning the Cuban regime's acts of repression, and calling for the immediate release of arbitrarily detained Cuban citizens.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2576. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a program to allow qualified group practices to furnish certain items and services at qualified skilled nursing facilities to individuals entitled to benefits under part A and enrolled under part B of the Medicare program to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2576

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reducing Unnecessary Senior Hospitalizations Act of 2021" or the "RUSH Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. SNF-BASED PROVISION OF PREVENTIVE ACUTE CARE AND HOSPITALIZATION REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1899C. SNF-BASED PROVISION OF PREVENTIVE ACUTE CARE AND HOSPITALIZATION REDUCTION PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a program to be known as the 'SNF-based Provision of Preventive Acute Care and Hospitalization Reduction Program' (in this section referred to as the 'Program'), to be administered by the Secretary, for purposes of reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency department visits by allowing qualified group practices (as defined in section 1877(h)(4)) on or after January 1, 2022, to furnish items and services identified under

subsection (b)(3) to individuals entitled to benefits under part A and enrolled under part B residing in qualified skilled nursing facilities.

“(b) OPERATION OF PROGRAM.—Under the Program, the Secretary shall provide for the following:

“(1) Certification of skilled nursing facilities as qualified skilled nursing facilities under subsection (c)(1).

“(2) Certification of group practices as qualified group practices under subsection (c)(2).

“(3) Identification on an annual basis of minimum required, clinically appropriate nonsurgical items and services furnished at a hospital emergency department that may be safely furnished by a qualified group practice at a qualified skilled nursing facility under the Program and that such qualified group practice shall offer to furnish under the Program. Such items and services may include provider review of lab and imaging reports for medical decision making, medication management, blood glucose management, behavioral health services, and other services offered to diagnose or treat low acuity conditions.

“(4) Establishment of qualifications for nonphysician employees who may furnish such items and services at a qualified skilled nursing facility. Such qualifications shall include the requirement that such an employee—

“(A) be certified in basic life support by a nationally recognized specialty board of certification or equivalent certification board, in accordance with requirements under section 483.24(a)(3) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

“(B) have—

“(i) clinical experience furnishing medical care—

“(I) in a skilled nursing facility;

“(II) in a hospital emergency department setting; or

“(III) as an employee of a provider or supplier of ambulance services; or

“(ii) a certification in paramedicine.

“(5) Payment under this title for items and services identified under paragraph (3) furnished by such qualified group practices at such a facility in amounts determined under subsection (d).

“(c) CERTIFICATIONS.—

“(1) QUALIFIED SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the Secretary shall certify a skilled nursing facility as a qualified skilled nursing facility if the facility submits an application in a time and manner specified by the Secretary and meets the following requirements:

“(i) The facility has on-site diagnostic equipment necessary for a qualified group practice to furnish items and services under the Program and real-time audio and visual capabilities as provided by the agreement between the facility and the qualified group practice.

“(ii) The facility has at least one individual who meets the qualifications described in subsection (b)(4) or a physician present 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to work with the qualified group practice, in accordance with section 483.35(a) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation). Such individual may be a member of the staff of the qualified skilled nursing facility or of the qualified group practice.

“(iii) The facility ensures that residents of such facility, upon entering such facility, are allowed to specify in an advanced care directive or otherwise documented in the individual's records whether the resident wishes to

receive items and services furnished at the facility under the Program in a case where communication with the resident is not possible.

“(iv) The facility ensures that individuals to be furnished such items and services under the Program at such facility have the opportunity, at their request, to instead be transported to a hospital emergency department.

“(v) The facility is not part of the Special Focus Facility program of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (although the facility may, at the discretion of the Secretary, be a candidate for selection under such program).

“(B) REQUIRED PROVISION OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this paragraph shall affect the application of requirements under section 1819(b)(4), relating to provision of services and activities, to a facility.

“(2) QUALIFIED GROUP PRACTICES.—For purposes of this section, the Secretary shall certify a group practice as a qualified group practice for a period of 3 years if the group practice submits an application in a time and manner specified by the Secretary and meets the following requirements:

“(A) The group practice offers to furnish all minimum required items and services identified under subsection (b)(3) under the Program.

“(B) The group practice submits a notification to the Secretary annually specifying which (if any) additional items and services identified under subsection (b)(3) for a year the group practice will offer to furnish for such year under the Program.

“(C) The group practice ensures that only individuals who meet the qualifications established under subsection (b)(4) or a physician who is part of such group practice may furnish such minimum required items and services and such additional items and services.

“(D) The group practice, as provided by the agreement between the facility and the group practice or under the supervision of the medical director of the facility, ensures that, in the case where such minimum required items and services or such additional items and services are furnished by such an individual, such individual furnishes such minimum required items and services or additional items and services under the supervision, either in-person or through the use of telehealth (not including store-and-forward technologies), of—

“(i) a physician—

“(I) who is board certified or board eligible in emergency medicine, family medicine, geriatrics, or internal medicine; or

“(II) who has been certified by a nationally recognized specialty board of certification or equivalent certification board in basic life support;

“(ii) a nurse practitioner who has been certified by a nationally recognized specialty board of certification or equivalent certification board in basic life support; or

“(iii) a physician assistant who has been certified by a nationally recognized specialty board of certification or equivalent certification board in basic life support.

“(E) With respect to any year in which the qualified group practice would participate in the Program, the Chief Actuary for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services determines that such participation during such year will not result in total estimated expenditures under this title for such year being greater than total estimated expenditures under such title for such year without such participation.

“(d) PAYMENTS AND TREATMENT OF SAVINGS.—

“(1) PAYMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For 2022 and each subsequent year, payments shall continue to be made to qualified group practices and qualified skilled nursing facilities participating in the Program under the original Medicare fee-for-service program under parts A and B in the same manner as they would otherwise be made except that such group practices and skilled nursing facilities are eligible to receive payment for shared savings under paragraph (2) if they meet the requirement under subparagraph (B)(i).

“(B) SAVINGS REQUIREMENT AND BENCHMARK.—

“(i) DETERMINING SAVINGS.—In each year of the Program, a qualified group practice (and any qualified skilled nursing facility participating in the Program that has an agreement with the group practice for the furnishing of items and services identified under subsection (b)(3) to residents of the facility) shall be eligible to receive payment for shared savings under paragraph (2) only if the estimated average per capita Medicare expenditures for Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries for parts A and B services furnished under the Program by the group practice (and any such facility), adjusted for beneficiary characteristics, is at least the percent specified by the Secretary below the applicable benchmark under clause (ii). The Secretary shall determine the appropriate percent described in the preceding sentence to account for normal variation in expenditures under this title, based upon the number of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries participating in the Program.

“(ii) ESTABLISH AND UPDATE BENCHMARK.—

For each qualified group practice (and any qualified skilled nursing facility participating in the Program that has an agreement with the group practice for the furnishing of items and services identified under subsection (b)(3) to residents of the facility) the Secretary shall estimate a single benchmark for each year that is applicable to both the group practice (and any such facility) using the most recent available 3 years of per-beneficiary expenditures for parts A and B services for Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries for items and services furnished by such group practice or skilled nursing facility under the Program. Such benchmark shall be adjusted for beneficiary characteristics and such other factors as the Secretary determines appropriate. Such benchmark shall be reset at the start of each year.

“(2) PAYMENTS FOR SHARED SAVINGS.—If a qualified group practice (and any qualified skilled nursing facility participating in the Program that has an agreement with the group practice for the furnishing of items and services identified under subsection (b)(3) to residents of the facility) meets the requirements under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) pay to such qualified group practice an amount equal to 37.5 percent of the difference between such estimated average per capita Medicare expenditures in a year, adjusted for beneficiary characteristics, for items and services furnished under the Program by the group practice (and any such facility) and such benchmark for the qualified group practice (and any such facility); and

“(B) in the case of each such facility—

“(i) if the qualified skilled nursing facility has at least a three-star rating under the Five Star Quality Rating System (or a successor system), pay to the facility an amount that bears the same ratio to 12.5 percent of the estimated amount of such difference as the amount of expenditures under the Program for such items and services furnished with respect to individuals at such facility by such qualified group practice during such year bears to the total amount of

expenditures under the Program for such items and services furnished with respect to all individuals by such qualified group practice during such year; and

“(ii) in the case of a qualified skilled nursing facility that is not described in clause (i), retain in the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund under section 1817 the amount that the facility would have been paid pursuant to clause (i) if the facility were described in such clause until such time as the facility has at least a three-star rating under the Five Star Quality Rating System (or a successor system), at which point the Secretary shall pay such amount to the facility.

“(3) ADVANCED ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS.—Paragraph (2) shall not apply to items and services furnished to an individual entitled to benefits under part A and enrolled under Part B for whom shared savings would otherwise be attributed through an advanced alternative payment model as authorized under section 1115A or section 1899.

“(e) EVALUATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a qualified group practice and a qualified skilled nursing facility, not later than 6 months after such group practice begins furnishing items and services under the Program (or, in the case of a qualified skilled nursing facility, not less than 6 months after a qualified group practice first furnishes such items and services at such facility), and not less than once every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall evaluate such qualified group practice and such qualified facility using information received under paragraph (2) on such criteria as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(2) REPORTING OF PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.—In a time and manner specified by the Secretary, a qualified group practice and a qualified skilled nursing facility shall submit to the Secretary a report containing the following information with respect to items and services furnished under the Program during a reporting period (as specified by the Secretary):

“(A) The items and services most frequently furnished under the Program in such period.

“(B) The number of individuals with respect to whom such group practice furnished such items and services in such period (or, in the case of a qualified skilled nursing facility, the number of individuals with respect to whom such a group practice furnished such items and services at such facility in such period).

“(C) The number of hospitalizations prevented under the Program in such period.

“(D) The number of such individuals who were admitted to a hospital or treated in the emergency department of a hospital within 24 hours of being furnished such items and services.

“(E) Other information determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(3) LOSS OF QUALIFIED CERTIFICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 months after a determination described in this sentence is made, the Secretary may revoke the certification of a qualified skilled nursing facility or a qualified group practice made under subsection (c) if—

“(i) the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services determines that the participation of such skilled nursing facility or such group practice in the Program during a year resulted in total expenditures under this title for such period being greater than total expenditures under such title would have been during such period without such participation; or

“(ii) a facility is selected for the Special Focus Facility program or, if the facility is a candidate for the Special Focus Facility program, the Secretary determines that the

participation of such facility in the Program should be terminated.

“(B) EXCLUSION FROM CERTIFICATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case that the Secretary revokes the certification of a qualified skilled nursing facility or a qualified group practice under subparagraph (A), such skilled nursing facility or such group practice shall be ineligible for certification as a qualified skilled nursing facility or a qualified group practice (as applicable) under subsection (c) for the applicable period (as defined under clause (ii)).

“(ii) APPLICABLE PERIOD DEFINED.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘applicable period’ means—

“(I) if the revocation of a facility or group practice under subparagraph (A) is due to the application of clause (i) of such subparagraph, a 1-year period beginning on the date of such revocation; and

“(II) in the revocation of a facility under subparagraph (A) is due to the application of clause (ii) of such subparagraph, the period beginning on the date of such revocation and ending on the date on which the facility graduates from the Special Focus Facility program (or, in the case of a facility that is a candidate for such program, the date on which the facility is no longer such a candidate, as determined by the Secretary).

“(f) DETERMINATION OF BUDGET NEUTRALITY; TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—

“(1) DETERMINATION.—Not later than July 1, 2027, the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services shall determine whether the Program has resulted in an increase in total expenditures under this title with respect to the period beginning on January 1, 2022, and ending on December 31, 2026, compared to what such expenditures would have been during such period had the Program not been in operation.

“(2) TERMINATION.—If the Chief Actuary makes a determination under paragraph (1) that the Program has resulted in an increase in total expenditures under this title, the Secretary shall terminate the Program as of January 1 of the first year beginning after such determination.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 332—HONORING THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT AND EXPRESSING DEEP GRATITUDE ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE SCIENTISTS, DISEASE DETECTIVES, CAREER CIVIL SERVANTS, AND SUPPORT STAFF AT THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO PROTECTING THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 332

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the “CDC”), based in Atlanta, Georgia,

was established by the United States Government on July 1, 1946, initially to prevent the spread of malaria in the United States, and soon became the premier public health agency of the United States;

Whereas because medical epidemiologists were scarce in the United States prior to the establishment of the CDC, disease surveillance became the cornerstone of the mission of service of the CDC to the States;

Whereas, since 1946, the scientists, disease detectives, career civil servants, and support staff of the CDC have worked every day to combat diseases like malaria, yellow fever, smallpox, polio, influenza, and Ebola;

Whereas the Epidemic Intelligence Service of the CDC has trained disease detectives at home and abroad, producing some of the top epidemiologists in the world;

Whereas the CDC has played a vital role in implementing high-profile and innovative programs, including the President’s Malaria Initiative, the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and the Global Health Security Agenda, helping save millions of human lives;

Whereas the staff of the CDC were instrumental in global efforts to effectively eradicate smallpox in 1980 and are currently working to eliminate polio worldwide;

Whereas the CDC has spent decades building public health infrastructure and capacity around the world to detect, respond to, and contain outbreaks of deadly diseases like Zika and Ebola;

Whereas the CDC assisted with disaster relief in Haiti, partnering with the Haitian public health ministry to respond to the cholera outbreak after the devastating 2010 earthquake;

Whereas the CDC has an established record of working to improve access to cancer screenings and treatment, prevent child malnutrition, protect workers, reduce developmental disabilities and birth defects, prevent injuries, and protect the public from dangerous environmental exposures;

Whereas the National Asthma Control Program of the CDC funds programs for States, schools, and nongovernmental organizations to help train professionals and educate people living with asthma and their families;

Whereas the CDC has worked to end the opioid overdose crisis by funding efforts to improve data collection about opioid use and implement evidence-based strategies to save lives;

Whereas a core principle of public health is that every person should be able to reach his or her full health potential, and the CDC seeks to remove barriers to health linked to race or ethnicity, education, income, location, or other social factors, including vital work to improve health equity;

Whereas the CDC employs more than 23,000 employees around the world, supporting the agency’s 24/7 mission of saving lives and protecting people from health threats;

Whereas political leaders of the United States should support and empower the public health experts at the CDC and other leading national health agencies to guide with science during public health crises; and

Whereas the strength and efficacy of the public health system of the United States and the response of the United States to the COVID-19 pandemic depends upon the leadership, expertise, and professionalism of the CDC staff who continue working tirelessly to fight COVID-19 and provide science-based guidance to protect families and save lives in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this resolution as the “CDC”);

(2) declares its deep gratitude on behalf of the people of the United States to the scientists, disease detectives, career civil servants, and support staff at the CDC for their dedication to fighting diseases and working every day to combat the COVID-19 pandemic;

(3) urges Federal agencies, State and local governments, and organizations nationwide to study and incorporate the evidence-based public health guidance and recommendations provided by the CDC;

(4) expresses its confidence in the scientific method, evidence-based policymaking, and the medical and public health professions, including the scientific field of epidemiology; and

(5) honors the contributions of the CDC staff for their leadership and dedicated public service to protecting the health, safety, and security of the United States, and to strengthening public health in the United States and abroad.

SENATE RESOLUTION 333—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE CARL LEVIN, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 333

Whereas Carl Levin was born on June 28, 1934, in Detroit, Michigan, and attended Detroit public schools;

Whereas, in 1956, Carl Levin earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania;

Whereas, in 1959, Carl Levin—

(1) graduated from Harvard Law School;

(2) was admitted to the State Bar in Michigan; and

(3) began practicing law in Detroit;

Whereas, in 1961, Carl Levin married Barbara Halpern, who raised 3 daughters together: Kate, Laura, and Erica;

Whereas Carl Levin was the proud grandfather of 6 grandchildren;

Whereas, in 1964, Carl Levin began his more than 50 years in public service as a tireless advocate for the people of Michigan, including serving as—

(1) the Assistant Attorney General and General Counsel for the Michigan Civil Rights Commission from 1964 to 1967;

(2) Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Michigan and Chief Appellate Defender for the City of Detroit from 1968 to 1969;

(3) a member of the Detroit City Council from 1969 to 1973 and as president of the Detroit City Council from 1975 to 1977; and

(4) a Senator from 1979 to 2015, serving the people of the State of Michigan in the United States Senate for 36 years;

Whereas Carl Levin served on—

(1) the Committees on Armed Services, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

(2) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

Whereas Carl Levin was a leader on military and national security issues during his time in the Senate, serving as the Chair of the Committee on Armed Services from 2001 to 2003 and from 2007 to 2015, during which he—

(1) led countless annual bipartisan defense authorization bills through the Senate;

(2) fought to eliminate fraud and waste in the Department of Defense; and

(3) was a tireless champion for service members and their families;

Whereas Carl Levin was a firm believer in government oversight, serving as the chair of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate from 2001 to 2002 and from 2007 to 2015, during which he—

(1) led dozens of major investigations to protect families in the United States from abusive credit card practices;

(2) took on major corporations and financial institutions who were gaming the system at the expense of hardworking taxpayers; and

(3) held bad actors accountable for their wrongdoing;

Whereas the family of Carl Levin is one that is devoted to public service, including—one

(1) his older brother, Sander Levin, who served in Congress with Carl Levin and who represented Michigan in the House of Representatives from 1983 to 2019; and

(2) his nephew, Andy Levin, who is, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, representing Michigan's 9th congressional district in the House of Representatives;

Whereas Carl Levin was—

(1) the longest-serving Senator in the history of the State of Michigan; and

(2) the longest-serving Jewish Senator in the history of the United States;

Whereas the USS Carl M. Levin (DDG-120), a Navy Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, was named in honor of Carl Levin;

Whereas, following his retirement from the Senate, Carl Levin returned to Michigan to work in private practice and help establish the Levin Center at Wayne State University Law School to promote and advance fact-based, bipartisan government oversight; and

Whereas Carl Levin will be remembered as an honorable and honest public servant, with an endless intellect, work ethic, and integrity, known for achieving collaboration and compromise: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Carl Levin, former Senator for the State of Michigan;

(B) extends heartfelt condolences to the entire family of the Honorable Carl Levin and all those who knew and loved him; and

(C) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Carl Levin; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Carl Levin.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2126. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1931, to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2127. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2128. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2129. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2126. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1931, to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 175(c)(1) of title 23, United States Code (as added by section 1403(a)), strike subparagraphs (L) and (M) and insert the following:

“(L) a project described in section 149(b)(5) that does not result in the construction of new capacity;

“(M) a project that reduces transportation emissions at port facilities, including through the advancement of port electrification; and

“(N) a project that uses pavement technologies, including designs, materials, and practices, that reduce carbon emissions and transportation emissions, as established by the Federal Highway Administration in policy guidance consistent with subsection (d)(2)(B)(iii).”

SA 2127. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . NAVY AND COAST GUARD SHIPYARD INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT.

(a) APPROPRIATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated, as an additional amount for “Defense Production Act Purchases”, \$25,350,000,000, to remain available until expended, to improve, in accordance with subsection (b) and using the authority provided by section 303(e) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4533(e)), the Navy and Coast Guard shipyard infrastructure of the United States.

(2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) shall supplement and not supplant other amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the purpose described in paragraph (1).

(3) WAIVER OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—During the 20-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the following requirements of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) shall not apply to amounts appropriated under paragraph (1):

(A) The requirement for a determination of the President under section 303(e)(1) of that Act (50 U.S.C. 4533(e)(1)).

(B) The requirement under section 304(e) of that Act (50 U.S.C. 4534(e)) that amounts in the Defense Production Act Fund in excess of the amount specified in that subsection be paid into the general fund of the Treasury at the end of a fiscal year.

(4) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—The amount appropriated under paragraph (1) is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall make the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) directly available to the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Homeland Security for obligation and expenditure in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—The amounts appropriated under subsection (a) shall be allocated as follows:

(A) \$21,000,000,000 for Navy public shipyard facilities, dock, dry dock, capital equipment improvements, and dredging efforts needed by such shipyards.

(B) \$2,000,000,000 for Navy private new construction shipyard facilities, dock, dry dock, capital equipment improvements, and dredging efforts needed by such shipyards.

(C) \$2,000,000,000 for Navy private repair shipyard facilities, dock, dry dock, capital equipment improvements, and dredging efforts needed by such shipyards.

(D) \$350,000,000 for Coast Guard Yard facilities, dock, dry dock, capital equipment improvements, and dredging efforts needed by the shipyard.

(3) USE OF FUNDS FOR PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN SERVICES.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.), amounts appropriated under subsection (a) may be used for the procurement of architect-engineer and construction services at Navy public shipyards.

(4) PROJECTS IN ADDITION TO OTHER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.—Construction projects undertaken using amounts appropriated under subsection (a) shall be in addition to and separate from any military construction program authorized by any Act to authorize appropriations for a fiscal year for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COAST GUARD YARD.—The term “Coast Guard Yard” means the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland.

(2) NAVY PUBLIC SHIPYARD.—The term “Navy public shipyard” means the following:

(A) The Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Virginia.

(B) The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Hawaii.

(C) The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Maine.

(D) The Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Washington.

(3) NAVY PRIVATE NEW CONSTRUCTION SHIPYARD.—The term “Navy private new construction shipyard”

(A) means any shipyard in which one or more combatant or support vessels included in the most recent plan submitted under section 231 of title 10, United States Code, are being built or are planned to be built; and

(B) includes vendors and suppliers of the shipyard building or planning to build a combatant or support vessel.

(4) NAVY PRIVATE REPAIR SHIPYARD.—The term “Navy private repair shipyard”

(A) means any shipyard that performs or is planned to perform maintenance or modernization work on a combatant or support vessel included in the most recent plan submitted under section 231 of title 10, United States Code; and

(B) includes vendors and suppliers of the shipyard performing or planning to perform maintenance or modernization work on a combatant or support vessel.

SA 2128. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division [], insert the following:

SEC. ____ . MODIFICATION OF EMPLOYER-PROVIDED FRINGE BENEFITS FOR BICYCLE COMMUTING.

(a) REPEAL OF SUSPENSION OF EXCLUSION FOR QUALIFIED BICYCLE COMMUTING REIMBURSEMENT.—Section 132(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking paragraph (8).

(b) COMMUTING FRINGE INCLUDES BIKESHARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section 132(f)(5)(F) of such Code is amended by striking “a bicycle” and all that follows and inserting “bikeshare, a bicycle, and bicycle improvements, repair, and storage, if the employee regularly uses such bikeshare or bicycle for travel between the employee’s residence and place of employment or mass transit facility that connects an employee to their place of employment.”.

(2) BIKESHARE.—Section 132(f)(5)(F) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) BIKESHARE.—The term ‘bikeshare’ means a bicycle rental operation at which bicycles are made available to customers to pick up and drop off for point-to-point use within a defined geographic area.”.

(c) LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES.—Section 132(f)(5)(F) of such Code, as amended by subsection (b)(2), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(v) LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES.—The term ‘bicycle’ includes a two- or three-wheeled vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 h.p.), whose maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a motor while ridden by an operator who weighs 170 pounds, is less than 20 mph.”.

(d) MODIFICATION RELATING TO BICYCLE COMMUTING MONTH.—Clause (iii) of section

132(f)(5)(F) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

“(iii) QUALIFIED BICYCLE COMMUTING MONTH.—The term ‘qualified bicycle commuting month’ means, with respect to any employee, any month during which such employee regularly uses a bicycle for a portion of the travel between the employee’s residence and place of employment.”.

(e) LIMITATION ON EXCLUSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 132(f)(2) of such Code is amended by striking “applicable annual limitation” and inserting “applicable monthly limitation”.

(2) APPLICABLE MONTHLY LIMITATION DEFINED.—Clause (ii) of section 132(f)(5)(F) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

“(ii) APPLICABLE MONTHLY LIMITATION.—The term ‘applicable monthly limitation’, with respect to any employee for any month, means an amount equal to 30 percent of the dollar amount in effect for the month under paragraph (2)(B).”.

(3) AGGREGATE LIMITATION.—Subparagraph (B) of section 132(f)(2) of such Code is amended by inserting “and the applicable monthly limitation in the case of any qualified bicycle commuting benefit”.

(f) NO CONSTRUCTIVE RECEIPT.—Paragraph (4) of section 132(f) of such Code is amended by striking “(other than a qualified bicycle commuting reimbursement)”.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Paragraphs (1)(D), (2)(C), and (5)(F) of section 132(f) of such Code are each amended by striking “reimbursement” each place it appears and inserting “benefit”.

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

SA 2129. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . CREDIT FOR AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS ALLOWED TO ISSUERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chapter 65 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 6430 the following new section:

“SEC. 6431. CREDIT TO ISSUER OF AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The issuer of an American infrastructure bond shall be allowed a credit with respect to each interest payment under such bond which shall be payable by the Secretary as provided in subsection (b).

“(b) PAYMENT OF CREDIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay (contemporaneously with each interest payment date under such bond) to the issuer of such bond (or, at the direction of the issuer, to any person who makes such interest payments on behalf of the issuer) 28 percent of the interest paid under such bond on such date.

“(2) INTEREST PAYMENT DATE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘interest payment date’ means each date on which the holder of record of the American infrastructure bond is entitled to a payment of interest under such bond.

“(c) AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE BOND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘American infrastructure bond’ means any obligation if—

“(A) the interest on such obligation would (but for this section) be excludable from gross income under section 103,

“(B) the obligation is not a private activity bond,

“(C) the issuer makes an irrevocable election to have this section apply,

“(D) the obligation is issued during the 8-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this section, and

“(E) 100 percent of the excess of the available project proceeds of such issue over the amounts in a reasonably required reserve (within the meaning of section 150(a)(3)) with respect to such issue are to be used for capital expenditures.

“(2) APPLICABLE RULES.—For purposes of applying paragraph (1)—

“(A) for purposes of section 149(b), a bond shall not be treated as federally guaranteed by reason of the credit allowed under this section, and

“(B) a bond shall not be treated as an American infrastructure bond if the issue price has more than a de minimis amount (determined under rules similar to the rules of section 1273(a)(3)) of premium over the stated principal amount of the bond.

“(3) AVAILABLE PROJECT PROCEEDS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘available project proceeds’ means—

“(A) the excess of—

“(i) the proceeds from the sale of an issue, over

“(ii) the issuance costs financed by the issue (to the extent that such costs do not exceed 2 percent of such proceeds), and

“(B) the proceeds from any investment of the excess described in subparagraph (A).

“(d) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) INTEREST ON AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS INCLUDIBLE IN GROSS INCOME FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES.—For purposes of this title, interest on any American infrastructure bond shall be includible in gross income.

“(2) APPLICATION OF ARBITRAGE RULES.—For purposes of section 148, the yield on an issue of American infrastructure bonds shall be reduced by the credit allowed under this section, except that no such reduction shall apply with respect to determining the amount of gross proceeds of an issue that qualifies as a reasonably required reserve or replacement fund.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may prescribe such regulations and other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this section.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 65 of subtitle F of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 6431. Credit to issuer of American infrastructure bonds.”

(2) Subparagraph (A) of section 6211(b)(4) of such Code is amended by striking “and 6428A” and inserting “6428A, and 6431”.

(c) TRANSITIONAL COORDINATION WITH STATE LAW.—Except as otherwise provided by a State after the date of the enactment of this Act, the interest on any American infrastructure bond (as defined in section 6431 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this Act)) and the amount of any credit determined under such section with respect to such bond shall be treated for purposes of the income tax laws of such State as being exempt from Federal income tax.

(d) ADJUSTMENT TO PAYMENT TO ISSUERS IN CASE OF SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any payment under subsection (b) of section 6431 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this Act) made after the date of enactment of this Act to which sequestration applies, the amount of such payment shall be increased to an amount equal to—

(A) such payment (determined before such sequestration), multiplied by

(B) the quotient obtained by dividing the number 1 by the amount by which the number 1 exceeds the percentage reduction in such payment pursuant to such sequestration.

(2) SEQUESTRATION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “sequestration” means any reduction in direct spending ordered in accordance with a sequestration report prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 or future legislation having similar effect.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to obligations issued after the date of enactment of this Act.

RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1046 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1046) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the residential substance use disorder treatment program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1046) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1046

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Part S of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10421 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the part heading, by striking “SUBSTANCE ABUSE” and inserting “SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER”;

(2) in section 1901 (34 U.S.C. 10421)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking “substance abuse” each place it appears and inserting “substance use disorder”; and

(II) by inserting after “programs” the following: “, including medication-assisted treatment programs, which shall be permitted to use any type of medication that has been approved to treat substance use disorders pursuant to section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355),

or any type of biological product licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262),”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “substance abuse” each place it appears and inserting “substance use disorder”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “substance abuse” and inserting “substance use disorder”; and

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking “part for treatment” and inserting “part for—

“(1) treatment”;

(ii) in paragraph (1), as so designated, by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) expanding residential substance use disorder treatment programs to use not less than 1 medication or treatment that has been approved to treat substance use disorders pursuant to section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355).”;

(3) in section 1902 (34 U.S.C. 10422)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking “ABUSE” and inserting “USE”; and

(ii) by striking “substance abuse” each place it appears and inserting “substance use disorder”;

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “substance abuse” each place it appears and inserting “substance use disorder”;

(C) in subsection (d), by striking “substance abuse treatment” and inserting “substance use disorder treatment”;

(D) in subsection (f), by striking “substance abuse” and inserting “substance use disorder”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) TRAINING REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive funds under this part, the chief medical officer of the prison or jail or appropriate staff overseeing the program shall complete training, before or within a reasonable amount of time after receiving the funds, on, at a minimum—

“(A) the science of addiction;

“(B) the latest research and clinical guidance for detoxification and withdrawal management and the treatment of substance use disorders in criminal justice settings;

“(C) strategies for continuity of care during and after incarceration;

“(D) an overview of—

“(i) all medications for the treatment of substance use disorders;

“(ii) how to obtain certification as an opioid treatment provider (OTP) or waivers under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) for prescribing certain medications; and

“(iii) evidence-based behavioral therapies used in addition to medication to improve medication adherence and treatment outcomes; and

“(E) any other topic determined by the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and in consultation with experts in addiction science, to be a core element for successful training under this paragraph.

“(2) REQUIREMENT.—The training required under paragraph (1) shall include guidance on how to—

“(A) engage relevant stakeholders;

“(B) identify available resources for, and gaps and barriers to, providing residential substance use disorder treatment; and

“(C) develop a plan to overcome obstacles to administering and offering medication-assisted treatment.

“(h) PROVIDER AFFILIATION.—Any entity, including a prison or jail, that receives Federal funds for a program or activity that offers medication-assisted treatment shall have an affiliation with a provider that can—

“(1) prescribe not less than 1 medication-assisted treatment to patients after release from the entity; and

“(2) discuss the risks and benefits of, and alternatives to, medication-assisted treatment with patients.”; and

(4) in section 1904 (34 U.S.C. 10424)—

(A) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) LOCAL ALLOCATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 10 percent of the total amount made available to a State under subsection (a) for any fiscal year shall be used by the State to make grants to local correctional and detention facilities in the State (provided such facilities exist therein).

“(2) JAIL-BASED SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT PROGRAMS.—A jail-based substance use disorder treatment program described in paragraph (1) may be made available to any individual who is—

“(A) awaiting trial or is otherwise in pre-trial detention; or

“(B) serving a sentence of imprisonment in the jail.”; and

(B) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may use amounts received under this part to—

“(A) provide any type of medication-assisted treatment that has been approved to treat substance use disorders pursuant to section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355), and any type of biological product licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262), and prescribe overdose reversal medications during the residential substance use disorder treatment program or after care;

“(B) cover costs associated with the training required under section 1902(g);

“(C) obtain waivers under clause (ii) or (iv) of section 303(g)(2)(G) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)(2)(G)); and

“(D) obtain certification as an opioid treatment provider (OTP) in accordance with part 8 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, or the prescription of medications to treat substance use disorders.

“(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘medication-assisted treatment’ means a treatment plan that combines behavioral therapy with any type of medication that has been approved to treat substance use disorders pursuant to section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355), or any type of biological product licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262).”

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 1001(a)(17) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(17)) is amended to read as follows:

“(17) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the projects under part S \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.”

(c) DEFINITION.—Section 901(25) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251(25)) is amended to read as follows:

“(25) the term ‘residential substance use disorder treatment program’ means a course of comprehensive individual and group substance use disorder treatment services in residential treatment facilities that, to the greatest extent practicable, follow the guidance entitled, ‘Promising Practice Guidelines for Residential Substance Abuse Treat-

ment’, published in November 2017 by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, or as thereafter amended to conform to current standards of care;”.

PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR AMERICANS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 75, S. 1301.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1301) to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1301) was passed as follows:

S. 1301

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act”.

SEC. 2. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMERICANS.

(a) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2028, and at least every 10 years thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall publish a report that provides physical activity recommendations for the people of the United States. Each such report shall contain physical activity information and recommendations for consideration and use by the general public, and shall be considered, as applicable and appropriate, by relevant Federal agencies in carrying out relevant Federal health programs.

(2) BASIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—The information contained in each report required under paragraph (1) shall be based on the most current evidence-based scientific and medical knowledge at the time the report is prepared, and shall include additional recommendations for population subgroups, such as children or individuals with disabilities, including information regarding engagement in appropriate physical activity and avoiding inactivity.

(3) UPDATE REPORTS.—Not later than 5 years after the publication of the first report under paragraph (1), and at least every 10 years thereafter, the Secretary shall publish an updated report detailing evidence-based practices and highlighting continuing issues

with respect to physical activity. The contents of reports under this paragraph may focus on a particular group, subsection, or other division of the general public or on a particular issue relating to physical activity.

(b) INTERACTION WITH OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.—Federal agencies proposing to issue physical activity recommendations that differ from the recommendations in the most recent report published under subsection (a)(1) shall, as applicable and appropriate, take into consideration the recommendations provided through reports issued under this Act.

(c) EXISTING AUTHORITY NOT AFFECTED.—This section is not intended to limit the support of biomedical research by any Federal agency or to limit the presentation or communication of scientific or medical findings or review of such findings by any Federal agency.

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no physical fitness standard established under this Act shall be binding on any individual as a matter of Federal law or regulation.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OSWALDO PAYÁ WAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2045 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2045) to designate the area between the intersections of 16th Street, Northwest and Fuller Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest and Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as “Oswaldo Payá Way”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2045) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2045

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the revolution led by Fidel Castro in Cuba in 1959 started 61 years of an ongoing dictatorship, systemic human rights abuses, and a lack of basic freedom of press, religion, assembly, and association that continue to this day under the Communist rule of Raúl Castro and his successor, Miguel Díaz-Canel;

(2) Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas was a Cuban political dissident dedicated to promoting democratic freedoms and human rights in Cuba;

(3) the Communist Party of Cuba has always viewed that commitment to democracy and freedom as a threat to the existence of the Communist Party of Cuba;

(4) on July 22, 2012, a violent car crash, widely believed to have been carried out by the Castro regime, took the lives of Oswaldo Payá and Harold Cepero, another dissident;

(5) the official investigation into the crash has been demonstrated to be compromised, and the Castro regime has offered no plausible evidence of the innocence of the Castro regime in the crash, leaving the circumstances of the death of Oswaldo Payá unknown;

(6) opposition by Oswaldo Payá to the Communist Party of Cuba began at a young age, when he refused to become a member of the Young Communist League as a primary school student, and continued through high school, when he publicly criticized the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union;

(7) the Communist Party of Cuba responded to the opposition by Oswaldo Payá to the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union by sending Oswaldo Payá to a labor camp for 3 years;

(8) Oswaldo Payá forewent a chance to escape Cuba in the 1980 Mariel boatlift, deciding instead to continue the fight for democracy in Cuba, saying, "This is what I am supposed to be, this is what I have to do.";

(9) by creating the Varela Project in 1998, Oswaldo Payá demonstrated his staunch commitment to peacefully advocating for freedom of speech and freedom of assembly for his fellow Cubans;

(10) in recognition of his determination for political reforms through peaceful protests, Oswaldo Payá was awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament in 2002 and the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award from the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in 2003 and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by former Czech President Václav Havel in 2005;

(11) on April 11, 2018, the Senate unanimously passed S. Res. 224, recognizing the sixth anniversary of the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, commemorating his legacy and commitment to democratic values and principles, and calling on the Cuban government to allow an impartial, third-party investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death; and

(12) renaming the street in front of the Embassy of Cuba in the District of Columbia after Oswaldo Payá serves as an expression of solidarity between the people of the United States and the people of the Cuba, who are engaged in a long, nonviolent struggle for fundamental human rights.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF OSWALDO PAYÁ WAY.

(a) DESIGNATION OF WAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The area between the intersections of 16th Street, Northwest and Fuller Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest and Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, shall be known and designated as "Oswaldo Payá Way".

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the area referred to in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to Oswaldo Payá Way.

(b) DESIGNATION OF ADDRESS.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The address of 2630 16th Street, Northwest, Washington, District of Columbia, shall be redesignated as 2630 Oswaldo Payá Way.

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the address referred to in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to 2630 Oswaldo Payá Way.

(c) SIGNS.—The District of Columbia shall construct 2 street signs that shall—

(1) contain the phrase "Oswaldo Payá Way";

(2) be placed immediately above existing signs at the intersections of 16th Street, Northwest and Fuller Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest and Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia; and

(3) be similar in design to the signs used by the District of Columbia to designate the location of Metro stations.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 2021 AS "AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER AND FOLIAGE MONTH"

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 318.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 318) expressing support for the designation of July 2021 as "American Grown Flower and Foliage Month".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 318) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 26, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RELATING TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE CARL LEVIN, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 333, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 333) relating to the death of the Honorable Carl Levin, former Senator for the State of Michigan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 333) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 160, 161, and 230; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Janie Simms Hipp, of Arkansas, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture; Susanna V. Blume, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Department of Defense; and Margaret Vo Schaus, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

ORDERS FOR SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m., Saturday, July 31; that following the prayer and pledge, the Executive Journal be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 333 as a further mark of respect for the late Carl M. Levin, former Senator for the State of Michigan, whom, I might add, we all dearly miss and dearly loved.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:12 p.m., adjourned until Saturday, July 31, 2021, at 11 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 30, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE	DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
JANIE SIMMS HIPP, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.	ADMINISTRATION	UR MENDOZA JADDOU, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE	MARGARET VO SCHAUS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.	
SUSANNA V. BLUME, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.		